

JUNE 24 83

Campaign under way

On Monday the parties move their election campaigns into top gear and *The Times* is poised to put it all into focus with news coverage, analysis and comment that will be comprehensive and authoritative.

The Spectrum Page starts a three-part analysis on the men who run each party leader's campaign - the men who help decide the dominant issues.

Jock Bruce-Gardyne, Barbara Castle and John Pardoe will each give their trenchant views of the battle as it develops. Geoffrey Smith provides daily analysis and comment, starting on Tuesday. David Watt will be giving his authoritative views on how the campaign is shaping up.

Every day, *The Times* will be providing the most intelligent guide to the election: profiling the key constituencies where results will be decisive, monitoring the leading campaigners' speeches, exposing and analysing all the issues, large and small. Plus Frank Johnson's own lighter reflections on the campaign.

Home loan rate rise warning

Mr Gerald Kaufman, shadow environment secretary, yesterday accused the building societies of artificially holding down the mortgage rate until after the election. Earlier in the day the Building Societies Association said that a change in the rate before the election was unlikely. Page 11

Peace challenge

Two Greenham Common peace women are taking their challenge to the polls by standing, in a "purely symbolic" way, against the Prime Minister, in her Finchley and Barnet seat, and the Secretary of State for Defence, in his Henley constituency. Page 2

Gun runners

Three Irishmen, Gabriel Megahy, Colm Meehan, and Eamon Meehan and an American, Andrew Duggan, were found guilty by a New York court of running guns to the IRA Provisionals. They face jail sentences of up to 35 years each.

Marbles fight

A campaign by Miss Melina Mercouri, the Greek Minister of Culture, for the return of the Elgin Marbles, has been endorsed by the Athens Cabinet and a formal claim will be lodged. Page 5

Drought plague

Drought continues to plague the Third World. In southern India reservoirs are running dry as the monsoon fails for the third year. But in Ethiopia food aid is getting through. Page 6 and back page

Dacre explains

Lord Dacre reflects on the muddle and misinformation that surrounded the "discovery" of the forged Hitler diaries. Page 8

Merger setback

The Reading chairman, Frank Waller, and two directors who had supported Robert Maxwell's proposed merger of Oxford United and Reading football clubs, have resigned. A merger now seems most unlikely. Page 18

Saturday

In today's edition of *Saturday*, Stewart Tendler casts an eye on the growing pastime of fly fishing. Also included in the eight-page arts and leisure section are travel articles on Epcot, the new Disney fantasy world and on Tuscany; the Duke of Edinburgh's design awards; drink on summer wines; family life in Windsor and news of the forthcoming week's events in the arts.

Leader page 9
Letters: On Solzhenitsyn, from Mr P Farr, and others; Service chapters, from Capt C Ward, RN; Planning, from Mr P J Purton

Leading articles: Top salaries, Russia and Syria; Spies and Civil Service

Features, page 8
Sir Richard Attenborough replies to criticism of *Gandhi*; David Butler on how TV could tip the election balance

Obituary, page 10
Dr Fridtjof Phnompong, M Max Blout

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CND chief comes under attack from papal envoy

By Clifford Longley and Nicholas Timmins

The Pope's representative in Britain has questioned the good faith of Mr Bruce Kent, general secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), saying that he may be deliberately serving Soviet interests.

The Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, Mr Bruno Heim, who has the status of an ambassador, said in a reply to letters from members of the public that those who campaign for unilateral disarmament may be "useful idiots", or blinkered idealists, or they may be "consciously sharing the Soviet aggressiveness and ideology".

Which of those possibilities applied "would have to be judged in individual cases even in that of Bruce Kent".

The terms of the letter were described by the Roman Catholic Bishop in East London, Mr Victor Guzzardi, as "hardly believable, in fact incredible". Another senior Roman Catholic churchman, who preferred not to be named, said it was "total rubbish".

Father Kieran Conry, Mr Heim's private secretary, said yesterday that the pro-nuncio was out of the country, and the letter expressed his personal views, not those of the Holy See. There had been no communication from the Pope concerning Mr Kent's position in CND at any time.

Nevertheless Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, said to regret deeply this attack on Mr Kent's integrity. He completely disagreed with it.

The existence of the letter



Mr Heim: Letter upsets his staff

was known in Archbishop's House, Westminster, and it explains why the cardinal stage-managed a public demonstration of good will towards Mr Kent last Monday.

At short notice, they each attended a reception in London for the visiting American bishop, Mr Thomas Gumbleton, and each made a short speech expressing their mutual respect. A source close to Cardinal Hume said: "That was our comment on the letter".

Embarrassment in the church is increased because a general election campaign is under way, with unilateralism as a key issue and Conservative propagandists making much the same charges against the CND as those made by Mr Heim.

His letter bears the date May 4, but his private secretary said it was still being sent out, with an extract from a statement on the morality of nuclear deterrence made by the Pope last year.

The letter says that the pro-nuncio's own attitude is against unilateral nuclear disarmament, and points out that propaganda in favour of it in the West "is regarded with much favour in the East". The letter is written in the third person, although Father Conry confirmed that it was drafted by Mr Heim.

It continues: "Unilateralists, therefore, are carrying out a one-sided campaign, and it is clear which side it benefits most."

"Whether those doing so are consciously sharing the Soviet aggressiveness (sic) and ideology, or belong to the great number of the well-known 'useful idiots', or, again, are blinkered idealists would have to be judged in individual cases, even in that of Bruce Kent."

It appears to be no secret in church circles that some of Mr Heim's staff were most unhappy with the letter on the ground that the papal diplomatic service should not be seen to involve itself in national political controversies in such a way. One well-placed churchman called it a "diplomatic gaffe".

Mr Heim is known to have been in correspondence with Mr Edward Leigh, who is prospective Conservative candidate and a member of the Committee for Peace with Freedom, which is headed by Mr Winston Churchill, Conservative MP for Strefford.

Continued on back page, col 1

Syria rejects peace terms for Lebanon

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

President Assad of Syria categorically refused yesterday to accept the present terms of the Israeli-Lebanese withdrawal proposals. He told the Lebanese Foreign Minister that the agreement - which provides for the departure of up to 25,000 Israeli soldiers but also for a token Israeli "security" presence in Southern Lebanon - undermines Lebanon's sovereignty and independence, subjugates Lebanon to Israeli and imperialist dominance, and constitutes a grave danger to Syria's security.

The Lebanese Government fears that without a parallel Syrian withdrawal, the Israelis will move their troops back to the Awali river just north of Sidon and stay there, effectively partitioning Lebanon together with the Syrians.

Whether to cover such a limited withdrawal, or for some other, less predictable purpose, the Israelis sent a long convoy of tanks and armoured personnel carriers up from their border yesterday to the West Beirut perimeter.

Between Khalde at the southern end of the Beirut international airport and the ruined town of Damour, the Israelis had last night positioned 22 Merkava tanks and well over 60 tracked personnel carriers. At the same time, the three grey-painted tanks of Major Saad Haddad's pro-Israeli private army were driven away from their revetments guarding the Awali river bridge outside Sidon. It was unclear whether the Israelis were about to take over duties there, but a large number of Israeli troops carrying trucks moved through Sidon during the day.

President Assad's rejection, however, may not have been final. Mr Elie Salem, the Lebanese Foreign Minister, apparently came away from his talks in Damascus with the impression that the Syrians might become more amenable if they were to receive their own security guarantees in the Bekaa Valley and some sign from the Americans that the return of occupied Syrian Golan could be included in a revised version of President Reagan's peace plan for the Middle East.

It was probably not by chance that, as Mr Salem flew out of Damascus yesterday morning, Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader, arrived in the Syrian capital for talks on what the Syrians coyly referred to as "current events".

Mr Arafat was in fact discussing the terms on which his own guerrillas in Lebanon - who are positioned with the Syrians in the Bekaa and in the northern city of Tripoli - might be prepared to withdraw. The PLO has been demanding assurances from the Lebanese Government that the 400,000 or so Palestinian civilians in Lebanon should be protected from harassment or attack, either by the Phalangist militia or by officers of the Lebanese Deuxieme Bureau.

Given the procrastination of the PLO when their evacuation from Beirut was under discussion last year, it could be several weeks - even months - before any coherent policy emerges.

The dominant question in Lebanon is how long the Israelis will be prepared to wait for some sign of movement by the Syrians and the PLO.

Curbs eased, page 5
Leading article, page 9

President Assad: Rejection may not be final

Coal chief punched by miners

Miners kicked and punched the director of the National Coal Board in Scotland, Mr Albert Wheeler, yesterday after he had announced the closure of their pit.

About 200 men surged forward as Mr Wheeler left talks with the unions at Cardowan Colliery, Glasgow. He was forced against a wall and kicked and punched before being led to safety. But he was not seriously hurt.

Coal Board officials called for the police as Mr Wheeler expressed his disgust.

"We expected a reaction, but not quite like this. I cannot believe members of the mining community would act like this."

Mr Wheeler was shielded by his deputy director, Mr John London, who had his glasses broken.

The attack came at a local hall outside the colliery. When the police arrived, Mr Harry Steele, a local union official pleaded with the men not to repeat the incident.

Mr Wheeler, aged 49, had earlier told officials of the National Union of Mineworkers of the decision to shut the mine within five weeks.

He said Cardowan had lost £8m last year and would lose around £10m this year. Productivity at the pit was 40 per cent of the national average. It was a pit that could not compare with any other in Scotland, he said. The 1,100 miners were offered transfers to three other Scottish collieries: Polkemmet in West Lothian; Polmaise, outside Stirling; and Longannet in Fife, with cash inducements of up to £1,500 a man.

Mr Michael McGahay, left-wing leader of the Scottish miners, told Mr Wheeler there was no way the closure would be accepted.

The unions will now take the issue through Scottish area and national conciliation procedures, which could delay closure for several weeks.

Continued on back page, col 1



End of the Grimond era

Mr Jo Grimond, former leader of the Liberal Party, leaving the House of Commons yesterday for the last time as an MP. After 33 years representing the Orkney and Shetland, Mr Grimond is not standing in next month's election. He announced his departure from active politics last November, declaring that 70, the age he reaches at the end of July, was a "reasonable age to retire". He is regarded by contemporary Liberals as their spiritual leader and mentor, a figure of great personal magnetism and intellectual originality. (Photograph: John Voos.)

Beware Tory brainwashers, says Foot

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Tory brainwashers were working overtime to represent the Government's disastrous record as a success, Mr Michael Foot said yesterday. George Orwell would marvel at their efforts but another four years of Tory "success" would mean the end of Britain as a great industrial nation.

The leader of the Opposition, within hours of the dissolution of the Parliament elected in 1979, was opening Labour's campaign in Wales, in the marginal seat of Carmarthen.

Labour's Dr Roger Thomas, elected in 1979, is again being challenged there by Mr Gwynfor Evans of Plaid Cymru, the father figure of Welsh nationalism, who has held the seat twice before, from 1966 to 1970 and from 1974 to 1979.

Mr Foot made the Conservatives' industrial record his main target, but also attacked other jobs, prosperity, tax cuts, industrial peace, and law and order. We might not have believed all their promises but no one could have conceived that they would create such disasters.

"Who would have voted for them if they had known that they would have destroyed more jobs than the previous eight governments had created? That they would... than double VAT within days and more than double inflation within a year? That the crime rate would rise by a third? That they would increase prescription charges by 600 per cent, from 20p to £1.40?"

Mr Foot said that only four years ago, when Labour left office, unemployment had been falling and inflation had been below or close to single figures for a year and a half. There were more people at work than ever before, and the best levels of public service the country had experienced.

By May, 1979 the clouds of the winter of discontent had passed, he said. There was industrial peace and a new agreement with the trade unions.

"If Labour had stayed in office we could have become one of the most prosperous nations in the world. The best that might be said about this Government was that it stumbled blindly into the disasters of the last four years. But it did not - it dogmatically chose this course, claiming that it was the only way to get the economy right."

Steel call for summit to speed arms talks

By Our Political Staff

Making an appeal for an East-West summit meeting to give new political impetus to the talks on nuclear and conventional disarmament, Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said yesterday that it should not be organized as a "gimmick" but with a view to gaining real progress.

He defended the policy of the Liberal/Social Democratic Alliance on the deployment of cruise missiles in the United Kingdom and Europe, which is to make the decision dependent on progress made at the Geneva talks.

Mr Steel said the proposal to deploy them in Britain as a way of pressing the Soviet Union to come forward with new offers to cut down the deployment of SS20 missiles. The Labour Party's decision to refuse such deployment he saw as an encouragement to the Russian leaders to be obdurate.

"It is a scandal that seven years have passed without the heads of the United States and the Soviet Union actually having a meeting," Mr Steel said.

Mr Steel, who was being interviewed on BBC Radio by Mr J Young, was reminded that Mrs Thatcher had said a week ago that she was not willing to go to Moscow to meet Mr Andropov but would do so "on neutral ground".

The Liberal leader said that he did not like this "dancing around" the issue - the more talk there could be between the leaders of the Soviet block and the Western block, the better.

Thatcher names defence as nation's priority

From Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent, Perth

The Prime Minister last night delivered her election battle cry by asking the voters to apply the "Falklands test" to the defence policies of the Labour Party.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher told the Scottish Conservative Party Conference in Perth that on June 9 she would ask the electorate "to treat the nation's defence as the first call on the nation's resources".

She then asked: "If a hostile government was tempted to pursue its demands by armed aggression, which example would be more likely to make it pause: the renunciation of the means of national self-defence, which the banners call for? Or the swift and sure response of our young men in the South Atlantic just a year ago?"

Mrs Thatcher said that the Conservative Party had a prize to fight for, "no less than the chance to banish from our land the dark, divisive clouds of Marxist socialism and bring together men and women from all walks of life who share a belief in freedom and who have the courage to uphold it."

"So tonight we go forth from Perth to battle. Great things are expected of us."

The Prime Minister said that the voters had elected a Conservative government to tackle the real problems. Since then, the thickets of bureaucracy had been uprooted, the nation's ability to defend itself had been rebuilt, the numbers and authority of the police had been increased and council tenants had been given the chance to buy their own homes.

The Government, too, had achieved a fairer balance of benefits and payments with the European Economic Community and had proved that Britain's word was its bond. But the Prime Minister added that it had been impossible to shift overnight the ingrained habits of half a lifetime.

Mrs Thatcher said: "Had both sides of industry realized

that in future they had to take responsibility for their own actions, and that they would not automatically be bailed out regardless of their performance, hundreds of thousands of worthwhile productive jobs would have survived the recession."

The aim of the Government was not to bemoan the burden of increased employment but to jump them "new jobs", she said, "come from new businesses and new products".

ON PAGE FOUR

Battle for Brent
Howe's warning on defence
Jobs march and map
Tebbit attacks Healey

Television influence

To help with the industrial rebirth the Government had kept inflation down, helped cut overheads, legislated for more balanced trade union laws, provided tax incentives to good management, lowered taxes and loan guarantees for small business, helped inventors with ideas for new products and helped with research into new technology and through public purchasing.

But Mrs Thatcher warned her audience that in the next three weeks there would be Labour scare stories. Nevertheless, she reminded the conference, in 1979 Labour had said that a Conservative government would cut pensions, dismantle the National Health Service, cripple education and become the dear foe party. None of this had proved to be the case.

She said that Labour would abandon the independent nuclear deterrent, take Britain out of the Common Market, adopt a deliberate policy of inflation, take away the council tenant's right to buy and put the country under the dominance of the trade unions.

Continued on back page, col 4

VICTORIA WINE

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Wine of the month

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Red Burgundy
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The snip of the year at

ONLY 2.29
PER BOTTLE

5% CASE DISCOUNT

British Leading Wine Merchant

VICTORIA WINE

ESTABLISHED 1880

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Export of Dadd work is halted

The Government has stopped the export of a Victorian painting by Richard Dadd, which was done while he was in an institution for the criminally insane. It was sold at Sotheby's in March for £550,000.

The work was bought by the Fine Art Society dealing for an anonymous bidder, and the sale price set a record at more than double the previous highest for a Victorian painting sold at auction.

A public collection in Britain has, after the Government's intervention, six months to bid for the painting, "Contraction - Oberon and Titania", painted between 1854 and 1855 in Bethlem Hospital. Richard Dadd was committed to hospital after murdering his father in 1843.

Dentist death file for DPP

Dr David Paul, the Hornsey coroner, is referring to the Director of Public Prosecutions details concerning a woman whose heart stopped while in a dentist's chair following an anaesthetic.

Mrs Rosetta Spicer, aged 49, of Somerville Road, Harrow, died 10 days later. At an inquest this week the coroner recommended urgent action to prevent dentists giving general anaesthetics without an assistant.

Tories in child care victory

Mr John Lea, a Conservative Liverpool city councillor who obtained an interim High Court injunction to stop it showing confidential social service files to people who have been in his care, yesterday had the injunction lifted when the council agreed to pay full legal costs, estimated at £3,000.

The Conservative group fear the council resolution, now rescinded in part, could harm the standard of child care. The Attorney General is taking over Mr Lea's action.

European Court plea by nurse

A mental nurse dismissed for refusing to give electro-convulsive therapy to patients is appealing to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Mr Les Parsons, aged 31, of Nottingham, lost his claim against the Norwich Area Health Authority for unfair dismissal earlier this year. He now works for the mental health organization MIND.

3 remanded on kidnap charges

Three men accused of kidnapping the wife of John Goodwin, a convicted "jury nobbler", were further remanded in custody for a week yesterday at Bow Street magistrates' court, London.

Mr Anderson, aged 21, a street trader of Camden City, was charged with kidnapping Mrs Goodwin on May 5. Mr Anderson, aged 22, of London, and Ben Mohammed, aged 25, of London, were charged with assisting in the kidnapping. Mr Anderson was remanded on May 20, Mohammed on May 21, and Anderson on May 22. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Body on Downs

The body of a young woman was found yesterday on the Sussex Downs near Ford, off the A275 Lewes to Newhaven road.

Correction

The correct result for Milton Keynes in the local council elections on May 5 was: Labour 11, Conservative 1, Liberal 1, Independent 1, Green 1, and Other 1. (Note: C 7, Lab 5, L 3, I 1, Ind. Lab gain 1 from Ind. I from SDP, I from L, L gain 2 from C, I from Lab. New council: C 20, Lab 18, L 6, SDP 1, Ind 1.)

Peace women in poll challenge to Thatcher and Heseltine

Women peace protesters at the Greenham Common air base are taking their challenge to the doorsteps of the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Defence.

Miss Rebecca Johnston, aged 28, originally from Sussex, is standing for election to the Henley constituency of Mr Michael Heseltine. Mrs Simone Wilkinson, aged 37, from Coves in the Isle of Wight, who is a member of CND's national council, intends to fight Mrs Margaret Thatcher in Finchley and Brent.

Miss Johnston said: "Our standing is purely symbolic against the two representatives of the Conservative Party who are so closely tied to defence. We want to use it as a platform to highlight our issues."

The other 20 women who are on the electoral roll at the peace camp will be using their vote if they can find a candidate in agreement with their views and the rest will vote to their original homes to vote.

Last night the protesters said moves to fly in top secret nuclear equipment to Greenham Common represented typical government strategy to avoid their protest.

The Ministry of Defence confirmed that a Galaxy transporter plane had landed at the air base on May 3 carrying training equipment associated with the preparation of the base as a cruise missile site. But a spokesman declined to comment on the accusation that it was a tactic to avoid confrontation.

"We are more concerned about the expediency of the operation in total than one aspect of it," he said.

Miss Johnston said: "We have noticed an increase in air traffic and we expected it to happen. I see it as part of the Government's strategy to avoid facing the protests of the British people against the cruise missile decision."

The women are now firmly installed on their new plot of land, yards from their old home, after their eviction by bailiffs.

Lieutenant Brian Irving, the United States Air Force information officer at the base, confirmed that a flight carrying training equipment arrived at the base on May 3.

"It was the first in a series of aircraft flights that will come in bringing equipment for the base," he said.

He denied that the aircraft was to avoid the peace women protesting at the gates and said that it had always been planned for all the equipment to be flown in, including the cruise missiles.

"One of the reasons that Greenham was chosen was because of its airstrip. I do not know exactly when things will be flown in but we are on schedule for the facilities to be ready by December this year."

Mr Wedgwood Benn has called on Mrs Thatcher to stop further police action against the Greenham Common peace women. He said in a letter to her on Thursday that police action against the women, which was shown on television as "a disgrace". Yesterday, he had received no reply.

But four shots from a high-velocity weapon were fired at police vehicles in Little James Street, in the Bogside, during rioting on Thursday night, it was revealed yesterday.

An appeal was also made to burn down Littlewoods store. In Belfast, a Masonic hall was extensively damaged in an arson attack.

Army experts were examining a Vessex helicopter which came under heavy machine gun attack from the Provisional IRA on a flight over south Armagh on Thursday night. Two soldiers were wounded.

Security forces believe that as many as 10 gunmen were involved in the attack, carried out from a hillside, near the village of Silverbridge. The possibility has not been ruled out that a rapid-firing M60 machine-gun was also used.

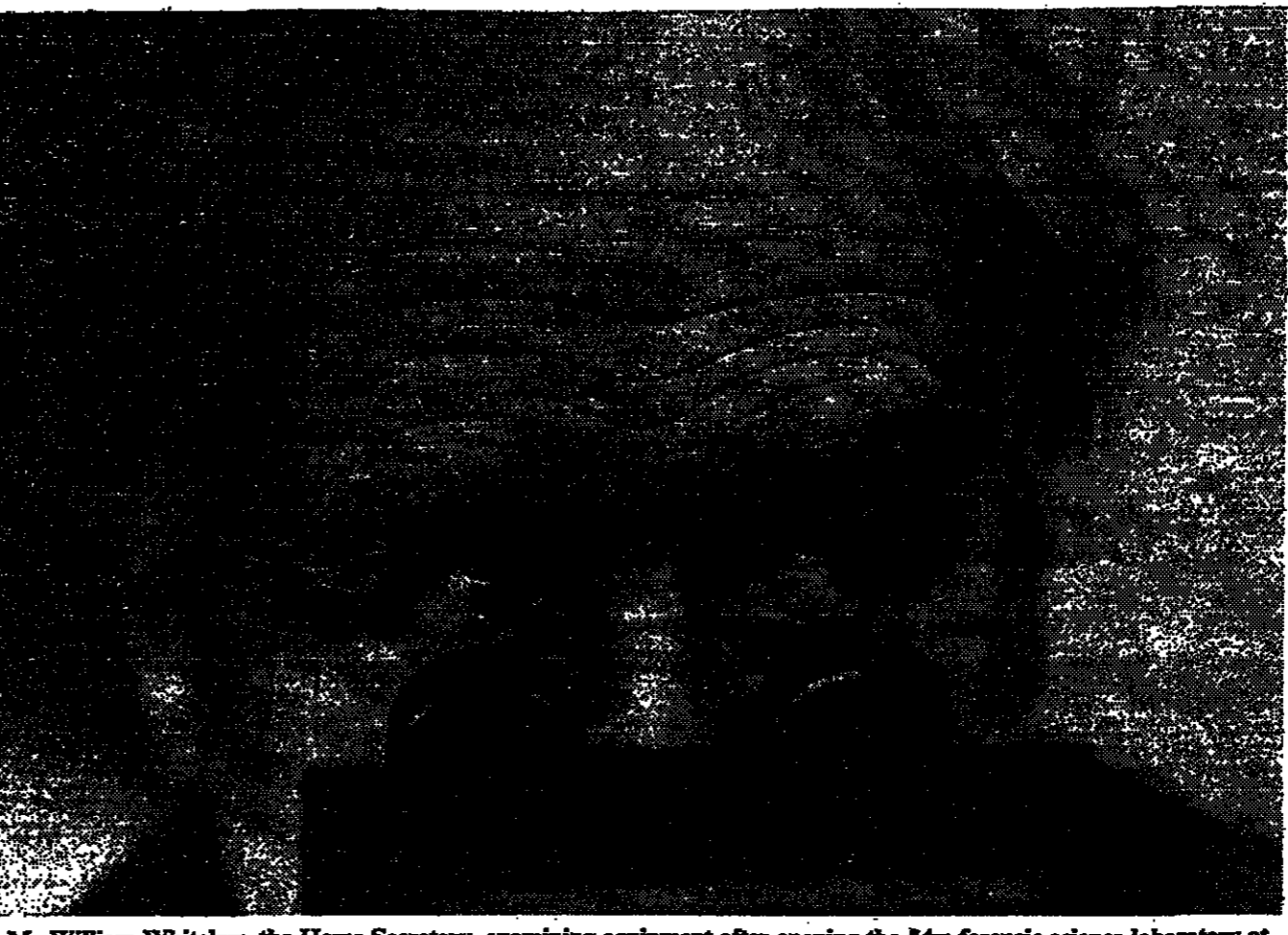
The Rev Nell Farren said yesterday that Mrs Alice Purvis's action in putting herself between IRA gunmen and her husband, Staff Sergeant Brian Purvis, had saved his life at the expense of her own. "A true display of Christian charity," he was speaking at a requiem mass for Mrs Purvis.

Detective Patrick Kearney, aged 27, a member of the Irish Republic's anti-drug unit, was found shot dead in Dublin castle yesterday. His revolver was in his right hand.

The opposition Finanna Fall party is confident of winning the by-election held in the border constituency of Donegal, south-west, yesterday.

When the result is announced today special interest will centre round the number of votes given to Eddie Gallagher, aged 34, husband of British-born heiress, Dr Rose Dugdale, who is serving 20 years for his part in the 1975 kidnapping of Dutch industrialist Dr Tiede Herremans.

The annual Maggie Teyte prize competition has been won by the Welsh soprano Lynne Davies, who is studying at the Royal Academy. She wins £500 and a concert appearance.



Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, examining equipment after opening the £4m forensic science laboratory at Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, yesterday (photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Police fire at petrol bombers

Forty-one petrol bombs were thrown at the security forces during two hours of violence in the Bogside area of Londonderry early yesterday. Police fired two plastic baton rounds to disperse a crowd of 70 youths.

There were no reports of injuries and police vehicles were only slightly damaged. The disturbances began on Thursday afternoon when vehicles were hijacked and set alight.

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False alarms may bring police ban

North Yorkshire police have threatened to boycott for three months any building where burglar alarms go off regularly.

In a letter circulated to traders, Mr David Burke, the Assistant Chief Constable, says that police cover will be withdrawn if his officers received nine false alarms from any building in a year.

But the directive has been received with disbelief by local business people.

Vivien Smith, a fashion designer, who received the letter yesterday after installing burglar alarms at a York factory said: "I can see the police point of view entirely, but rather than refuse to come out after series of false alarms surely it would be better to charge a fee for a false call. After all, they should be there. It is their duty."

Mr Robert Dent, a joiner, of Layerthorpe, York, said: "I can see these false alarms must be a blooming nuisance to the police, but you have got to have them set fairly sensitively. It is not much satisfaction to people who install alarms to be told they will not respond to them when they go off?"

Another businessman said: "This must be the best news the local burglars have ever had. It is an open invitation for them to have a crack at any premises where they know the police will not turn out."

In his letter Mr Burke claims that the police received about 7,500 false calls and only 100 genuine ones each year.

The drain on police resources, he said, cannot be allowed to continue and the new measure had been taken "reluctantly".

A spokesman for North Yorkshire police said later: "It is costing over £360,000 a year in wasted manpower and resources to turn out on these calls so our aim is to restore the credibility of alarm systems."

A spokesman for the Home Office said: "Police reaction to calls from the public is an operational matter for Chief Constables. Nevertheless the public is urged to seek advice from local crime prevention departments about the best alarms to use."

Timex sit-in deal is in doubt

There were strong doubts last night over the success of a peace deal to end the five-week sit-in at a Timex factory in Dundee.

A 10-point peace formula had been agreed in secret talks between Mr Frederick Olsen, the group's multi-millionaire owner, Mr Gavin Laird, general secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and Mr Kenneth Gill, leader of its white-collar section.

But Mr Harry McLevy, Dundee secretary of the engineers' union said the proposals were rejected by the "occupation committee".

The deal would mean that dismissals and compulsory redundancies affecting 340 employees would be lifted during a 90-day period while the company looks for 400 voluntary redundancies. Should an insufficient number come forward, compulsory severance would be initiated.

The committee will explain its reaction to shop stewards today, who will then decide whether to recommend the deal to a mass meeting on Monday.

The company had delayed a court action over the occupation in the Court of Session in Edinburgh. The hearing was adjourned until Friday.

Mr Clive Sinclair, whose company had been losing an estimated £1m a week because of delays in producing his flat-screen micro-television, has threatened to move elsewhere.

The 977 workers faced with redundancy at Hartlepool steelworks, which is losing £500,000 a month, urged their union yesterday "to use whatever means possible" to protect their jobs. But the mass meeting fell short of calling on the national executive of their union, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, to start strike action.

The National Graphical Association has agreed a pay and productivity deal with Williams Lea, City of London printers, to accept material from word processors. It means that NGA members will work on material originated on customers' word processors. Traditionally the union has only accepted work produced by its own members.

Steel jobs call

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Science report Why some patients fight the factor IX

By the staff of Nature

Oxford University scientists have discovered the reason why a minority of patients with a form of haemophilia produce antibodies against the blood-clotting factor that they are missing when they are treated with it.

The basis of the discovery is the technique, developed in the laboratory of Professor George Brownlee, an anatomical biologist, used to analyse the gene for factor IX, the vital clotting factor missing in patients with haemophilia B (or Christmas disease).

Professor Brownlee and his colleagues in the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology and the Department of Biochemistry of Oxford University, together with Dr C. Rizza of the Haemophilia Centre of Oxford's Churchill Hospital, have now been able to analyse the factor IX gene in blood samples of five of the six British cases of haemophilia B who have antibodies against the factor.

In one case there was no trace of the gene, in another there was only a trace and in a third about half of the gene was missing. The fourth case also showed signs of a defective gene, although the defects were different from those of patient three, his nephew.

No abnormalities could be detected in the factor IX gene of the fifth case, nor in 20 patients with haemophilia B who did not produce antibodies in response to therapy.

So four of the five antibody-producing patients have a grossly defective gene for factor IX and the fifth patient may well fall into that category when the tests are refined.

With such a defect the patients can never produce any of their own factor IX. Consequently their immune system will never encounter factor IX until treatment with it begins.

The antibodies appear within the first dozen or so treatments and produce a considerable problem thereafter. Unlike other haemophilia B patients, it is pointless for these with antibodies to take weekly intravenous doses of factor IX as a preventive measure against bleeding because their antibodies simply inactivate such doses.

The only effective treatment is to wait until bleeding occurs and then give such a huge dose of factor IX that it overwhelms the antibodies for long enough to bring about clotting of the blood.

The application of Professor Brownlee's techniques to samples taken from newly diagnosed haemophiliacs should make it possible to predict which of them is likely to produce antibodies upon treatment. Dr Rizza, who treats haemophiliacs, admits that it is not yet clear how he could avoid the production of the antibodies upon treatment.

For haemophilia B tests could take longer because antibodies appear in less than 1 per cent of the 800 patients in Britain. However, 6 per cent of the 4,500 British patients with the better known haemophilia A have antibodies against the clotting factor VIII and it should not be long before factor VIII genes can also be analysed.

Not surprisingly, Professor Brownlee and his colleagues predict that the gene will be grossly defective in the patients who develop antibodies against factor VIII upon treatment with it.

Source: Nature, vol 303 p 181 (May 12, 1983). © Nature-Times News Service 1983.

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TV-am holds audience of 200,000

TV-am's average weekday audience is still hovering at 200,000 for the second week running, but the BBC's *Breakfast Time* programme has slipped in the viewing ratings, according to figures released yesterday for the week ending May 8.

The BBC show's average weekday audience fell by 200,000 to 1,500,000. It has no weekend showing. Weekend viewing figures for TV-am showed a 100,000 increase in the Saturday audience.

The figures are produced by the Broadcasters Audience Research Board (BARB).

Ex-policeman is cleared of rape

A police sergeant who had an affair with a teenage schoolgirl was acquitted yesterday of five charges of raping her. The middle-aged man, who has now left the Essex force, was also cleared of indecently assaulting the girl and having sexual intercourse with her when she was under age. The trial was in Chelmsford.

The policeman, who denied the charges, admitted he had an affair with the girl, but said sex took place only after she was 16. He said the girl had made up the allegations.

Lie detector 'would have exposed Prime'

By David Nicholson-Lord

Attack on daughter was 'major blow'

The father of the woman denounced by the Security Commission for not exposing Geoffrey Prime, the spy for the Russians, nine years before he was caught, said yesterday that the disclosures had come as a "major blow".

Miss Dorothy Barby had been told by Prime's first wife in 1973 that he was a spy but had not told the police. She had even acted a referee for him during a positive vetting, saying she knew of no reason why he "should not be entrusted with secret government work."

The commission, chaired by Lord Bridge described Miss Barby's action as "disgraceful" and said it was tragic that neither woman had the courage to expose Prime and put a stop to his espionage nine years ago.

Speaking from his home in Dartford, Kent, where he is bedridden, her father, Mr Barby, said: "I am an old man with a bad heart and it came as a major blow to me when my daughter was criticized in the official report. She leads her own life and we do not interfere."

Prime was jailed for 38 years last year for passing secrets to the Russians while he worked at the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) at Cheltenham.

They should be forced on people because there is an element of chance about it."

Opinions vary on the accuracy of the test, with some authorities citing a figure as low as 80 per cent and claiming it can be defeated by trained spies. But according to Mr Jeremy Barrett, managing director of Polygraph Limited, the instrument is 95 per cent accurate.

He said yesterday: "I have no doubt that we could have exposed Geoffrey Prime many years ago if he had been subjected to a polygraph test. It is absolutely impossible to beat the lie detector when it is operated by trained hands."

According to the Security Commission yesterday, the Soviet Union had advised its agents in the United States to avoid polygraph tests. Prime acknowledged under interrogation that he would not have sought a job at GCHQ in Cheltenham, one of the highest security establishments in the country, if he had been required to take a lie detector test.

Kidnapped cockatoo back

A rare cockatoo worth £4,000, which was kidnapped and sold for £450, was returned yesterday after the buyer learnt of the theft.

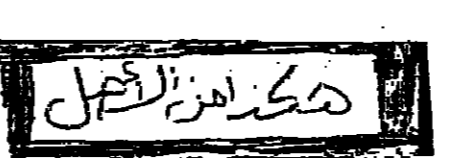
The 25-year-old bird was taken from the Minister Water Gardens at Southwell, Nottinghamshire, on Wednesday.

Bomb arrest

A man was arrested yesterday and held in Glasgow under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, after the discovery of a package containing an incendiary bomb at George Square Post Office.

Overseas selling prices

Antique	50p	50p	50p	50p	50p
Books	50p	50p	50p	50p	50p
CDs	50p	50p	50p	50p	50p
DVDs	50p	50p	50p	50p	50p
Records	50p	50p	50p	50p	50p
Video	50p	50p	50p	50p	50p
Books	50p	50p	50p	50p	50p
CDs	50p	50p	50p	50p	50p
DVDs	50p	50p	50p	50p	50p
Records	50p	50p	50p	50p	50p
Video	50p	50p	50p	50p	50p



Kedleston Hall will be offered to the nation after VAT concession

By Geraldine Norman

Kedleston Hall, the Derbyshire masterpiece of the architect Robert Adam, will be offered to the nation after it was announced in the Commons yesterday that certain value-added tax charges on country home treasures would be lifted.

Lord Scarsdale, who inherited Kedleston from his first cousin in 1977, wants to cede the house, parkland and art treasures to the nation in payment of the capital transfer taxes. But he had made the offer conditional on the lifting of VAT which would have added £300,000 to the £2.5m tax bill.

It was argued that by opening the house to the public, the owner was carrying on a business and the acquisitions made by his ancestors were ordinary business assets. A surprising effect of this ruling was that, while works of art on view to the public were subject to VAT on disposal, works of art retained in the private apartments were not.

Lord Scarsdale said yesterday: "I am vastly relieved, I hope that my offer can go ahead in the next few weeks. I am



The south front of Kedleston Hall which is expected to be run by the National Trust.

delighted that the powers that be have seen sense." Mr Hugh Leggatt, Secretary of Heritage in Danger, said he was delighted.

The concession was announced in answer to a question from Sir William Elliott, retiring MP for Newcastle upon Tyne, North, by Mr John Bruce-Gardyne, Economic Secretary to the Treasury. He said that a Treasury order would be made as soon as possible to exempt from VAT objects which are accepted in respect of tax debts, or sold by private treaty to national institutions.

The VAT imposition on stately home treasures was introduced a year ago in a little advertised clarification note introduced by Customs and Excise. In effect, it announced that art treasures on view to the public in stately homes would be treated for VAT purposes as if they were art dealers' stock where the owner of the house was registered for VAT.

Wife alleges scalpel threat

Mrs Anne Irvine, the former wife of a Belfast doctor, told a court yesterday how she threatened to disfigure her with a scalpel in a fit of rage.

Mrs Irvine said that was one of several violent outbursts by her husband, John, during their stormy 11-year marriage, which ended four years ago.

stop Dr Irvine, aged 52, a former casualty officer at the Royal Belfast Hospital For Sick Children, from harassing him and his family.

£4,311 awarded to 'sitting duck' pay clerk

Mr Vinodrai Mehta, a pay clerk, described by a High Court judge as having been a "sitting duck for robbers", was yesterday awarded £4,311 damages for injuries suffered when he was shot in the leg during a payroll raid.

21 children hurt in collision of minibuses

Twenty-one children and three adults were taken to hospital yesterday after a collision between two minibuses during a storm. One bus was taking mentally handicapped teenagers to a day centre and the other carrying secondary school pupils on a day out at the theatre.

Oaks felled by farmer despite council order

A Kent farmer has upset local residents and environmentalists by felling his trees. They watched helplessly as seven magnificent mature oaks were felled on Thursday and fear that 70 more may follow.

Burglaries cut in neighbourhood watch area

Burglaries in Kingstone, in Bristol, have fallen by 30 per cent since police began publicizing a pioneering inner-city neighbourhood watch scheme there in January. Meanwhile, burglaries in Avon and Somerset, of which Bristol is part, have risen by 19 per cent.

Driver killed

Mr John Curran, aged 37, from Runcorn, was killed yesterday when a lorry was in collision with his broken-down Reliant Robin car on the Liverpool to Widnes road near Halewood. Six other cars then involved in a pile-up, slightly injuring several drivers.

Thatcher's first

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has become the first woman member of the Variety Club of Great Britain, after a decision taken at Variety's international convention.



£2,018 fish: Somewhere in the sea off the coast of Cornwall swims a lonely sturgeon, and the chances are that in four or five days' time it will finish up at Billingsgate market in London like this 81lb specimen that was its partner up to last Tuesday, Kenneth Gosling writes.

convinced the other fish will share its partner's fate. Only three such fish have appeared at the market in 18 months and this one, carried by Mr Bill Ruth, a market porter, will be on show at a special open day there tomorrow.

Cable from Himalayan runners

A three-week wait for news of two brothers who are trying to run 2,500 miles across the Himalayas for charity ended in relief yesterday.

Safety committee to vet post-coital pill

The question of the "morning after" pill is to be referred to the Committee of Safety on Medicines. Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, announced yesterday.

Owners improving homes instead of paying for move

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

Higher moving costs, growing mortgage queues and the shortage of certain types of homes in some areas are making more people stay put and spend money on improving their present houses.

The Woolwich society has lent £31m in the five months since October, compared with £50m last year.

Homeowners are also concerned with the rising moving costs. In a recent survey the Woolwich estimated the average family move is costing about £4,000 in fees, stamp duty and removal charges.

Army warning over range

The Army firing range, at Pirbright, Surrey, closed since Mrs Sheila Wenham, aged 50 was shot through the head by a stray bullet three weeks ago reopened yesterday with a warning to the public not to stray on to the ranges.

David Martin fasting again

David Martin, a high-security remand prisoner, has begun another hunger strike in Brixton Prison South London. He has been refusing food since May 7.

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CRÈME DÉTENTE à l'Arnica et au Germe de Blé. Dry and sensitive skins. Relaxing cream with Arnica and Wheatgerm.	<input type="checkbox"/>	jar	£ 18.00
CRÈME HYDRATANTE Fluide au Concombre. Cucumber moisturizing cream. All skins.	<input type="checkbox"/>	jar	£ 15.00
CRÈME COLLAGÈNE ET MAUVE. Night cream with Collagen and Woodmallow. All skins.	<input type="checkbox"/>	jar	£ 19.50
BAUME EFFICACE. Special balm for eye contour.	<input type="checkbox"/>	jar	£ 14.00
CRÈME SPÉCIALE. Special protective day cream with Hops and Soya. Dry skins.	<input type="checkbox"/>	jar	£ 16.00
CRÈME TEINTÉE. Tinted protective day cream with Avocado and Soya. For all complexions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	jar	£ 16.00
POUDRE TRANSMAT. Translucent face powder with Calendula. One shade.	<input type="checkbox"/>	box	£ 9.50
PHYTOMASCARA with Castor Oil. Also suitable for women wearing contact lenses. Two shades. Blue <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	unit	£ 7.50
EAU DE CAMPAGNE. Toilet water natural spray.	<input type="checkbox"/>	50 ml	£ 10.00

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Freeson starts campaign despite defiant backing for Livingstone

By Rupert Morris

Mr Reginald Freeson, Labour MP for Brent East, began his general election campaign yesterday without the support of several wards, without adequate finance, and in the knowledge that his local party was still engaged in a damaging battle with the national leadership.

The leftwing-dominated Brent East party is determined to hold a reselection conference at which Mr Kenneth Livingstone, the Greater London Council leader, would almost certainly gain the necessary votes to unseat Mr Freeson.

A meeting of the local party's general committee on Thursday night confirmed that it would press ahead with this process despite a declaration from the national executive committee that it was appointing Mr Freeson as candidate.

Yesterday, Mr James Mortimer, general secretary of the Labour Party, said that the Brent decision was "against the constitution of the party". The rules of the party clearly stated that if a general election were called and no candidate had been reselected, it was up to the NEC to nominate the candidate, he said.

Two hundred and fifty marchers have completed the trek from Manchester to a damp stretch of parkland outside Stockport. Some had been on the march exactly three weeks, covering about 250 miles from Glasgow. The protest is timed to end on June 5 at a large demonstration in Trafalgar Square.

Mr Freeson said that he had received offers of help from several wards, although he was aware that others would refuse to campaign for him. "We are starting from scratch", Mr Freeson said. "Nothing has been put in hand by these people who have been so busy trying to get rid of me. Other parties will probably be ahead of us."

Mr Freeson: "We will still win"

Party chiefs to face 'TV 500'

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Mr Michael Foot and Mr David Steel will be questioned by a cross-section of the nation's voters on television three days before the election. The three leaders have agreed to face, in turn, 500 voters, answer their questions and discuss the main issues on June 6.

A train will take the 500 voters to London for the climax of Granada Television's Election 500 series, which will be screened as an hour-long World in Action special.

During the series, the 500 will have the opportunity to question and debate facts behind the election issues, from defence to unemployment, with politicians and experts. Granada said that by the time they meet the party leaders, they should be as well informed as anyone in the country.

The 500 strong panel from the North-west has been chosen to be representative of the national electorate in terms of a GE, sex and socio-economic class. They are being asked what issues they think are most important in the election and which they would like to discuss in the programme. Only when that is known will specific programme titles be decided.

Shore selected for new London seat

Mr Peter Shore, the shadow Chancellor, has been confirmed as the Labour candidate for the new constituency of Bethnal Green and Stepney by 52 votes to seven.

MPs agree on Falklands report

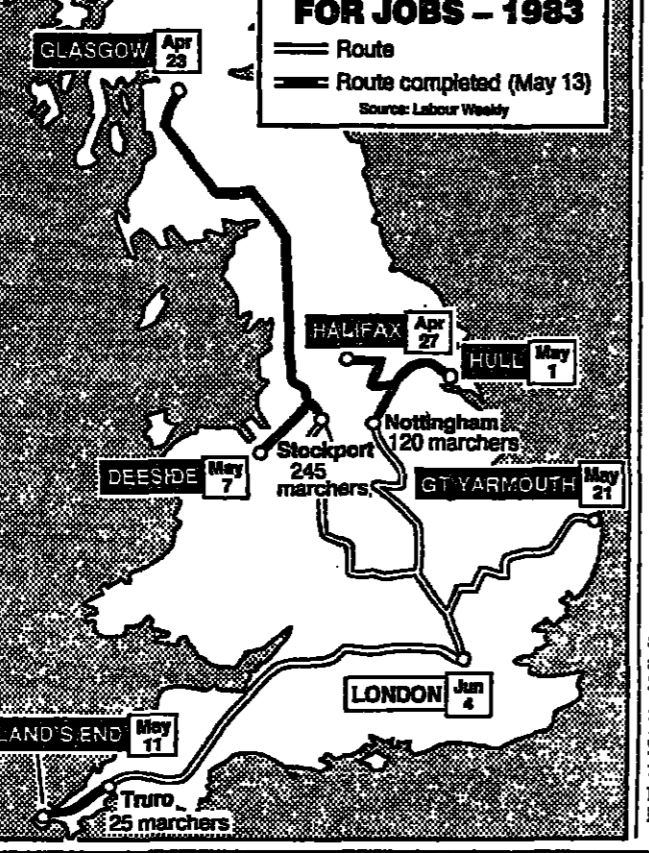
At an all-day session on Thursday the Commons Defence Committee reached unanimous agreement on its report on the defence of the Falkland Islands. It will be published after the Commons reconvenes.

An agreement was crucial before the dissolution yesterday.

Poll timing pleases jobs march leader

The timing of the general election would be an important bonus to the campaign to create more jobs, Mr Alan Millington, chief marshal of the People's March for Jobs, said yesterday.

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Tebbit attacks Healey views

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, yesterday accused Mr Denis Healey, Labour's deputy leader, of being further left than Mr Michael Foot.

"I think it is very significant that Denis Healey is thought to be more popular than Mr Foot," he said at a press conference in Cardiff.

"It is because people believe they know what Mr Healey stands for, campaigning for Britain to remain in the EEC, to update Poland and the need to cut government expenditure."

"But when they find out that he is now to the left of Mr Foot I do not think anyone will listen to him any more, let alone his nonsense about Britain going to the graveyard."

Mr Tebbit denied that Mrs Margaret Thatcher had called an election next month to cut and run before higher inflation and unemployment figures in the autumn. "Everybody knows that the unemployment trend is still upwards. We know there will be a high figure in the autumn when young school leavers come onto the register," he said.

"It would be irresponsible to name a date when unemployment would fall. You cannot cut unemployment until you get customers back. But jobs are being given in the British motor industry which had been lost because we lost customers."

Mr Tebbit recalled that the Chancellor of the exchequer had said in his Budget that he thought inflation would have a slight rise in October or November. "The signs are now that the increase will not be as high as he thought at the time."

Parliament is dissolved

Lieutenant-Colonel St John Brooke Johnson, the Common Crier of the City of London, reading the Royal Proclamation dissolving Parliament from the steps of the Royal Exchange yesterday.

Earlier the document had arrived at Westminster, in the presence of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, after being signed by the Queen at a Privy Council meeting.

Mr George Thomas, the retiring Speaker of the House of Commons left the Chamber yesterday for the last time as an MP. Before going he suspended the sitting for a few minutes so that he could shake hands with the other members present, including Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Bermondsey still waits for Labour's choice

Indicated by persuading Mr Tatchell to stand down", Mr O'Grady said.

Nationalization will mean defence cuts, Howe claims

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, claimed yesterday that Labour nationalization plans would cost a "fearful" £20bn, and defence would suffer huge cuts.

At the same time, Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, accused the Russians of working to undermine peace and to create dangerous instability in the world.

Both were speaking at the annual conference of the Scottish Conservative Party in Perth.

Sir Geoffrey said that the Government could face the future with "cautious optimism" on the economy based on improving economic indicators. He was encouraged at international conferences to find that other countries regarded Britain as an example and contributing to the restoration of economic growth.

He said that Labour's accusations that the Government was happy to see unemployment rise were wholly without foundation. The most important weapon in the war against unemployment was the reduction of inflation.

"The rise in unemployment which has taken place is not the price of bringing inflation down. It is the price of having allowed inflation to rise for too long and too fast in the past."

The Government had nothing to apologize for in its record on the welfare state, he said.

Sir Geoffrey continued: "Throughout Britain we can now look to the future with growing optimism. No one can pretend the last four years have been an easy ride or that the next five will be."

"The recovery will be a gradual one because it is based on sound financial policies and lower inflation, but for these reasons it will be a sustained recovery and not a dash for rapid growth which ends in tears."

Sir Geoffrey attacked Labour's campaign document as "a collection of the most ill-conceived and irresponsible proposals ever set before the people of Britain. He said: "You can find it in all the ancient prejudices, the outdated beliefs of Labour's left, literal hatred of private enterprise, a massive commitment to nationalization, and brazen recklessness in public expenditure."

"It is accompanied by a national economic assessment - a new version of the miserable failure they used to call the social contract. Once again trade unions, paymasters of the Labour Party, will be granted all the immunities and privileges which they desire and which the British people do not wish them to have."

He said that a "fearful analysis" of the cost of Labour's plan was that the nationalization proposals alone would be £20bn.

More alarming was the annual cost of Labour plans, £2bn on health and social services, £3bn on education and science, tens of billions on social security, and another large sum on other items.

Polls show 4% swing to Tories this week

Opinion polls taken in the past week suggest that since the election was announced on Monday, the Conservatives have improved their position by four percentage points, all at the expense of the Alliance.

The last two, taken on Wednesday and Thursday, together suggest a swing from Labour to Conservative since the general election of May, 1979 of 5½ per cent. If this distribution of party support is shown across the country on June 9 the result would be an overall Conservative majority of more than 200 seats in the new House of Commons.

The first poll in the table, by Gallup, was practically completed before the election was announced on Monday. The interviewing for the other four was done after the announcement, which can be expected to have concentrated voters' minds, and it is these four which show the trend which astonished MPs as they dispersed on the last day of Parliament yesterday.

They show Conservative support at 40 per cent on Monday, and again in the Marplan poll done between Monday and Wednesday, at 52 per cent on Wednesday and 59 per cent on Thursday. Over the same four days Alliance support is shown declining from 21 per cent on Monday, to 19 per cent on Tuesday, to 15 per cent on Thursday, or from an average of 20 per cent to an average of 16 per cent.

But there would be huge cuts in only one area, defence

"In a world that is full of danger, the Conservative Government is not prepared to leave our country without the means of defending itself."

Pym onslaught on Soviet policy

Mr Pym told the conference that for the Soviet Union peaceful coexistence meant an "onward march of communism" while avoiding outright war with the Western world (Anthony Bevins writes).

"The danger is that Mr Andropov had this rather special definition in mind when he said recently that the future belongs to the policy of détente, and that he was looking not for peace without victory, but for victory without war," Mr Pym said.

"In the Middle East, if the Russians were to use their influence to help bring about a settlement, this would be welcome universally. But the fact is that they are not prepared to put their weight behind any initiative which is not of their own making. They have been working behind the scenes to frustrate the efforts to make peace."

Mr Pym continued: "In Central America the Cubans - who could not pursue their present policy without Soviet support - are working hard to exploit the situation which is already dangerously unstable. In Africa, their involvement -

and Soviet support for it - is even more blatant. And its effect once again is to make an unstable situation more dangerous."

As for Labour policy, the Foreign Secretary said that the first pillar of Western policy was the maintenance of an effective deterrent. "Those who claim otherwise", he added, "are talking dangerous rubbish and the Labour Party's policy is full of it."

They were conceding just about everything the Russians wanted in terms of military superiority, hoping in some extraordinary and unexplained way to build a future. "What a hope!" Mr Pym exclaimed.

Labour's defence policy was "dangerous and incredible" Dr David Owen, deputy leader of the Social Democratic Party, said yesterday.

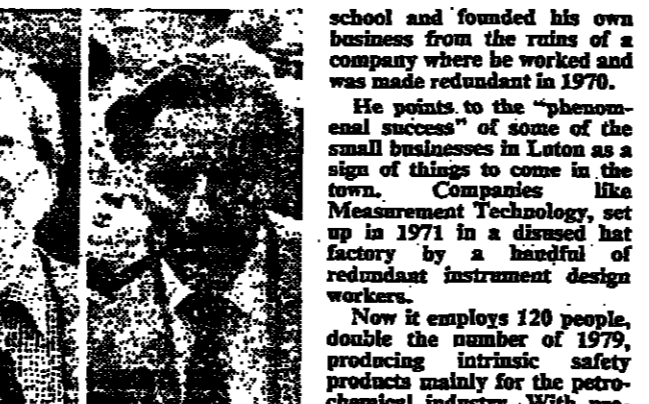
Barometer of the nation for almost 40 years

Since burning down the town hall, the burghers of Luton have relied in recent decades on more traditional methods of registering their dissatisfaction with local politicians.

The 1919 blaze, started after servicemen home from the war were refused permission to hold a celebration in a local park, was accompanied, so the story goes, by a heavy rendering of "Keep the home fires burning" played on a piano seized from a music shop nearby.

Nowadays the electors of the Bedfordshire town have gained a new reputation, amongst political pundits and psephologists at least, by being among the nation's most accurate political barometers. In every general election since 1945, except 1950, the town has elected MPs whose party has formed the resulting government.

Mr Graham Bright, son of a farmer, narrowly managed not to set the record in 1979 by wresting Luton, East, from Labour control with a few hundred votes in spare.



Luton lights (left to right): Mr Franks, the Liberal; Mr Clementson, the Labour candidate; Mr Hutcheon, the company director.

Any hopes that Mr Bright may have entertained of achieving the victory reflected in his party's standing nation ally in the opinion polls, disappeared last week when eight Conservatives lost their place on Luton council; all except one were from wards in his constituency.

Although two rural parishes within his seat were not involved in the election, the results provided Labour with a 3,000-vote majority over the Conservatives, while Liberals captured six seats with an average poll of 26 per cent.

Ulster story 'stained in blood'

Mr Enoch Powell last night accused Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr James Prior, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, of conniving with the Foreign Office and the United States Government to achieve a form of autonomy for the province which would be a preliminary to a united Ireland.

Ulster Unionist MP for Down, South, until the dissolution, said that it was "a story stained in blood."

That was the blood of those who had to be murdered to keep up the pressure whenever Britain's enthusiasm for "amenable autonomy" was thought to be flagging.

Benn considers suing

Mr Wedgwood Benn said yesterday he was considering taking the Sun newspaper to court over a poll it conducted in the new Bristol, East constituency which he is fighting.

Mr Benn said he was considering applying for a prosecution, under an election petition, of the newspaper for alleged "corrupt practices".

TABLE OF POLLS table with columns: Fieldwork dates, Poll, Sample size, Con, Lab, All, Oth, Con Lead

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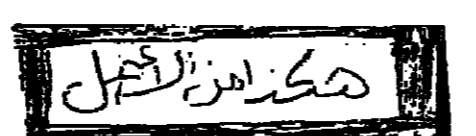
Mr Benn said he was considering applying for a prosecution, under an election petition, of the newspaper for alleged "corrupt practices".

He told a press conference in County Hall, London, that the telephone poll was conducted by an organization called Audience Selection. It involved 2,000 telephone calls "on behalf

of a consortium of British newspapers which they declined to name."

Mr Benn said: "If a charge of corruption was upheld, the courts would be in a position to punish the editor of the Sun and the polling organization concerned."

Mr Benn alleged that the questions put to people in Bristol East included five questions about him and his supposed views. He claimed views were attributed to him which he did not hold.





Taxi trap: San Francisco police, in white smocks, arresting a man wearing a blond wig and dress in the back of a taxi. He was accused of a \$318,000 (£200,000) bank robbery.

Contadora group to send observers but no peace force to war zone

Panama City (AP) - Four foreign ministers agreed yesterday to send a committee of observers to the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. The ministers for Panama, Venezuela, Colombia and Mexico to the Contadora group stopped far short, however, of agreeing to the Costa Rican request for a non-military, peace-keeping force to safeguard its neutrality. A joint final statement said that the committee would be made up of eight members, two from each of the countries, and would be told to carry out "study to identify the deeds, evaluate the circumstances and present the recommendations that might be pertinent". Costa Rica has no army, and its relations with Nicaragua have deteriorated sharply in recent months, as have Nicaragua's relations with El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. The foreign ministers' state-

ment said the decision to send observers to the border is linked to the effort to bring peace to the region and "the success of this proposal requires the cooperation of both countries". The group also expressed deep concern about "the evolution that the Central American conflict has had in past days, and the repeated violation of essential principles of international legal order". There were no direct references to limiting arms sales and removing foreign military advisers as a way of restoring peace in Central America. The ministers also formally invited the five Central American countries to participate in their next meeting May 28-30 in Panama. ● MANAGUA: Nicaraguan troops have routed a force of 750 rebels in Matagalpa department, deep inside Nicaragua, after two months of heavy

fighting, according to a Nicaraguan military spokesman, Reuters reports. Commander Xavier Carrión said his forces killed 243 rebels, wounded 61 and captured 12 before driving the survivors back into Honduras on May 4. Commander Carrión said the rebels infiltrated into Matagalpa 60 miles from Managua between January and March, and planned to use it as a base to raid provinces even closer to Managua. ● SAN JOSE: The Costa Rican Government has ordered the expulsion of three Nicaraguan right-wingers, including the son of Señor Fernando Chamorro, the rebel leader, for violating the country's neutrality, Reuters reports. Those expelled were Señor Fernando Chamorro Jr., Señor César Avilés and Señor Juan Zabala. It said that under no circumstances would the Government allow Costa Ricans or Nicaraguans living in Costa Rica to plan or execute military operations in Nicaragua.

were militiamen and their relatives, based near where Nicaragua says 1,200 rebels fought government troops last week in Nueva Segovia province. A further 750 were Miskito Indians, who complained of mistreatment in Zelaya department. ● TEGUCIGALPA: More than 1,000 Nicaraguan refugees flooded into Honduras this week after heavy fighting in northern Nicaragua, sources at the National Refugees Commission said yesterday. The total number of Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras is now more than 15,000, the sources said. About 150 of the refugees

With the Nicaraguan rebels Rosary beads, crucifix and ammunition belts

San Fernando, Nicaragua (NYT) - In the still of dawn on a road near northern Nicaragua town of Ocotal, two dozen well-armed men, women and boys who said they were anti-Sandinista guerrillas took up positions in the foliage. After planting a flag bearing the initials FDN (Nicaraguan Democratic Force, one of the rebel groups bent on overthrowing the left-wing Government in Managua), two runners set off to alert flanking forces. During the next 20 minutes the guerrillas stopped four lorries and buses. As drivers and passengers were ordered out and searched, Señor Armando Centeno Acevedo shouldered his AK47 automatic rifle and bade the people good morning. "Don't worry," said Señor Acevedo, a tall man of 44, who uses the pseudonym Antonio, "we're not going to hurt you. We are just like you. We are fighting the Communists to make Nicaragua free."

After buying provisions from a lorry driver and spraying anti-Communist slogans on the buses, the guerrillas shook hands with the passengers and sent them on their way. Like other Latin American rebels at the opposite end of the ideological spectrum, the Nicaraguan guerrillas say they are fighting oppression. But, unlike others, the Nicaraguans speak of the evils of international Communism and wear rosary beads and crucifixes with their ammunition belts. A five day trip for journalists was conducted by guerrillas who said they were guerrillas operating in the departments of Nueva Segovia and Madriz under the command of an agronomist, aged 39, who called himself Commander Mack. The guerrillas said they did not know where their arms came from, but they brided at a mention of opposition to the CIA's request to Congress for further aid for the rebels. Conversations with the combatants left the impression that even if covert American aid ends, deep-rooted unhappiness with the Government in northern Nicaragua will keep the insurgency boiling for a long time. The opposition to the Sandinistas seems to spring mainly from resentment over acute shortages of daily necessities and the imposition of Marxist ideology over religion. Some of the guerrillas, especially those in command positions, were either middle-class townspeople or small landowners who said their holdings had been confiscated by the Government. Many, however, were labourers or subsistence farmers who lived near the guerrillas zones.

Acid rain kills off rice in southern China

Peking (Reuters) - Acid rain in parts of China produces contamination as high as in affected areas of Europe and Japan, according to the *Guangming Daily* and official newspaper. It said rain had been tested in 2,400 localities throughout China and that in 44.5 per cent of cases it was found to be acid. It did not identify the source of the pollution, but said the problem was largely restricted to the region south of the Yangtze River. It was especially serious in the city of Canton, just across the border from Hongkong, Suzhou near Shanghai and Chongqing. The paper said rice planted on 3,300 acres near Chongqing suddenly wilted and died.

Agent Orange victims' fight going to court

American Vietnam veterans have cleared a big hurdle in their efforts to get compensation for illnesses caused by exposure to the toxic defoliant known as Agent Orange. A federal district court judge in Uniondale, Long Island, ruled that the case had sufficient merit to go to trial. The Dow chemical company and four smaller manufacturers are being charged with withholding crucial information from the United States Government on the dangers of the herbicide which was used to clear jungle in Vietnam. Had the suit been dismissed, legal claims involving Agent Orange would have come to an end.

Senate boost for Israel

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday approved a \$7,200m (£4,600m) foreign aid bill for the fiscal year. It includes military aid for El Salvador, Israel, Egypt, Greece and Turkey. The American fiscal year begins on October 1. The Bill, which was approved by a voice vote, is about \$100m less than President Reagan requested. It includes \$2,600m for Israel next year and \$2,100m for Egypt. These two countries are

the biggest recipients of US aid. The Bill would turn \$300m of loans to Israel into a gift, because of its heavy debt burden, and authorize \$125m more in economic aid to Israel than the Reagan Administration had asked. The Bill also would cut \$120m off the President's request for Turkey, because the committee wants to restore the informal but traditional 7 to 10 ratio in military aid to Greece and Turkey.

Bodies from Argentina's 'dirty war' unearthed

The provincial courts in Tucuman, a north-western province of Argentina, are reported to have discovered more than 100 unidentified bodies, buried in a local cemetery. They are believed to be victims of the so-called "dirty war" between the security services and guerrillas in the 1970s. Human rights groups maintain that thousands of innocent people were killed in the violence. The latest discovery came as a result of legal action by Señora Clara Medina de Bianchi and Señora Gregoria de Schetini, who are trying to discover the fate of their sons who "disappeared" in the conflict. Witnesses are reported to have testified that the bodies were buried in makeshift coffins, and in some cases

simply wrapped in blankets or tarpaulin. In 1974-76 the People's Revolutionary Army, a guerrilla group, set up rural bases in the province. The army carried out a major counter-insurgency campaign there, wiping out the insurgents with methods which were later to become generalized throughout the country after the military coup in 1976. Since October last year, human rights groups and relatives of "disappeared" people have been denouncing the discovery of clandestine cemeteries around the country. At the end of the last month the military junta issued a statement titled "Final document on the war against subversion and terrorism" which said that all "disappeared" persons should be considered dead.

Braniff tries to fly again

Exactly one year after it ceased flying operations, Braniff International may have found a formula that would make its fleet airborne again, but which could have strong negative ramifications for the entire domestic airline industry. The plan, which was approved on Thursday by Braniff's board, would have the Chicago-based Hyatt Corporation ensure the new airline as much as \$70m in funding in the form of cash contributions and loan guarantees. The move would probably allow Braniff to operate at one of the lowest costs in the industry but to the detriment of its competitors, which are beset by overcapacity and low fares. For that reason, other airlines are expected to put forward legal challenges to Braniff's plan in a way that could postpone an early return to profitability by other domestic carriers. Braniff must also obtain the approval from both its secured and unsecured creditors, labour unions and a federal bankruptcy judge before

its plan for flights as early as October can be realized. Braniff's return would mean the reemployment of 2,000 former workers with a service operation covering 20 cities. According to reports, Hyatt is expected to embark on several promotional schemes, including free accommodations to Braniff travellers and free travel to Hyatt hotel customers. In return for its funding, Hyatt would receive an 80 per cent interest in the reorganized airline, and would be allowed more than \$300m in Braniff tax credits. Financial officials at Braniff said that \$50m of Hyatt's funding would go into operational capital, \$15m into financial notes and \$5m in equity. Braniff's revival rests with the secured creditors who control the company's aircraft and who have in the past voiced scepticism over earlier revival proposals. Their refusal to approve would mean instant failure for the revival scheme. ● Michael Prest writes: The airline, which is based in Dallas, filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the US federal bankruptcy laws when it ceased operating. Braniff has already sold 20 Boeing 727s and leased one Boeing 747 to People Express, the cut-price airline which is seeking permission to run services from New Jersey to Gatwick airport, London. Barely three weeks ago Braniff rejected an offer from Hyatt to inject \$55m because it would have left the company providing only ground and maintenance services to other airlines. Under that plan all Braniff's remaining 41 aircraft would have been sold.

Infighting brings Chicago to standstill

Two weeks after Mr Harold Washington was inaugurated as Chicago's first black mayor, Government of the city has been brought to a standstill because of a bitter power struggle between the mayor and a group of influential white aldermen. There have been a series of stormy city council meetings in which abuse has been hurled back and forth and which have so far failed to produce a compromise agreement between the warring factions. Mr Edward Vrdolyak, leader of the white faction, has accused the mayor of trying to carry out "government by chaos". At one stage he shouted at Mr Washington: "Rule or ruin, rule or ruin".

When the mayor threatened to clear the council chambers if disruptions continued, Mr Vrdolyak yelled: "Get the handcuffs if that's the way you want to run this place. Get the handcuffs". The dispute is essentially over Mr Washington's declared intention to reform Chicago politics by dismantling the powerful Democratic Party machine which has dominated the city in almost feudal fashion for the past 50 years. However, as in the recent mayoral election, race is also a prominent factor. Most of Mr Washington's supporters are black. The Vrdolyak faction, made up of old Democratic machine politicians, are all white with the exception of one

Greece lays formal claim to the Elgin Marbles

Greece has decided to make a formal claim for the return of the ancient sculptures removed from the Acropolis in Athens by Lord Elgin in the early nineteenth century, and which are now kept in the British Museum. The committee for promoting the return of cultural property to its country of origin or its restitution in case of illicit appropriation, urged bilateral negotiations for the restitution of cultural property. The committee also accepted guidelines for such negotiations, which Greece declared it would observe in its bilateral negotiations with Britain for the restitution of the Parthenon Marbles. Moreover, Britain's position on this issue has been that the British Government has no right to coerce such private institutions as the British Museum to part with their possessions. The British Museum's policy is just as negative and does not appear to have changed since 1927. In reply to a request by the then Greek Ambassador in London for the return of the capital and the column drum from the Parthenon, the keeper, Sir F G Kenyon, wrote that the statutes regulating the museum "precluded (the trustees) from parting with any objects entrusted to their care, unless they are either duplicates or worthless, neither of which categories could apply to portions of the Parthenon". Miss Mercouri said she expected the collection to be returned to Greece within two or three years. When they came they would be placed in a special museum to be built on the Acropolis to protect them from the air pollution of Athens.

Nazi shop searched in Stuttgart

Stuttgart (AP) - Investigators yesterday searched the Nazi replica shop and home of Herr Konrad Lujan, who allegedly sold the fake Hitler diaries to *Stern* magazine and then dropped out of sight. A police officer leaving Herr Lujan's Stuttgart shop said the two-hour search turned up "nothing significant". Investigators took away two plastic bags of pictures and books, including a copy of *Mein Kampf* supposedly autographed by Hitler. They said the room they searched was filled with military collector's items such as uniforms, flags, books and photographs. There was no immediate report on what was found during the simultaneous search of Herr Lujan's home. Both searches were undertaken at the request of the Hamburg State Prosecutor, who is investigating a fraud complaint filed by *Stern* against reporter Gerd Heidemann, who obtained the fake Hitler volumes for the magazine. Herr Heidemann was dismissed when the Government exposed the "diaries" as forgeries. Lord Dacre, page 8

Walesa is likely to meet Pope

Mr Lech Walesa, the former Polish Solidarity leader, is expected to meet the Pope in Poland next month. The Government, although unhappy, is not in a position to forbid the encounter, according to Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the deputy Premier. Mr Rakowski, speaking in an interview with the American NBC television network, did not confirm that other leading officials (Mr Kazimierz Barcikowski, a Politburo member, and Mr Adam Lopatka, the Religion Minister) had urged the Church to prevent the meeting. But he made clear that "we would not be happy about it. However, I think that our standpoint will not be so important to the Pope, it will be to a greater or lesser degree the Pope's decision." Playing down the significance of the meeting, which would be interpreted by many Solidarity sympathizers as church backing for Mr Walesa and his banned union, Mr Rakowski also conceded that "we are not in a position to deny anything to the Pope". Mr Rakowski, who recently came under attack from a Soviet journal, apparently because of suspicions that he might be a "liberal" Marxist, dismissed recent demonstrations as insignificant in relation to the size or the sentiment of the population.

Restrictions eased in West Bank

Lieutenant General Moshe Levy, Israel's newly-installed Chief of Staff, has rescinded some of the more draconian measures introduced into the West Bank by his predecessor, Lieutenant General Raphael Eitan, after a recent report by General Dor Shefi, the Army's Judge Advocate general. General Shefi was asked to prepare a legal opinion on the legality of the measures introduced by General Eitan to subdue the population in the West Bank after the conviction earlier this year of four Israeli officers on charges of beating and harassing Arab youths in a village near Hebron. Documents were produced at that trial in a bid to demonstrate that the officers concerned were carrying out instructions laid down by General Eitan. Afterwards Professor Amnon Rubinstein, a member of the Knesset, appealed for a legal opinion. General Shefi found that certain of the measures introduced by General Eitan did not stand up to the test of legality, and were likely to be misunderstood, leading to illegal acts against the population of the occupied territories. ● Agreement delayed: The onset of the Sabbath yesterday prevented Israeli and Lebanese negotiators in Netanya from putting the finishing touches to the agreement on troop withdrawals from Lebanon. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the delegation had completed the English-version of the agreement after four hours of discussions, and would meet in Netanya again tomorrow to complete the French version. ● LONDON: King Hussein of Jordan, one of the keys to a solution to the Palestinian problem, discussed the Middle East for 30 minutes with Mrs Margaret Thatcher at Downing Street yesterday, David Cross writes. ● WASHINGTON: Mr Caspar Weinberger, the United States Defence Secretary, said yesterday that the increased Soviet involvement in Syria made a solution to the Lebanese crisis more difficult to achieve and "heightens the danger of direct conflict between Syria and Israel", Mobsin Ali writes. Leading article, page 9

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UN demand for Cyprus withdrawal

New York (Reuters) - The United Nations General Assembly yesterday demanded the immediate withdrawal of all occupation forces from Cyprus, the north of which has been under Turkish Army control for nearly nine years. The assembly also called for meaningful negotiations between representatives of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities, which have been holding talks on the future of the divided island since mid-1970s. The vote on the resolution, sponsored by a group of non-aligned countries friendly to Cyprus, was 103 in favour and five against with 20 abstentions. In 1979, a similar draft was adopted by 89 votes to five, with 35 abstentions.

Finnish bank chief sacked

Helsinki - President Koivisto yesterday dismissed Mr Ahti Karjalainen, the governor of the Bank of Finland because of his behaviour both in office and in private. Olli Kivinen writes. Mr Karjalainen, aged 66, has suffered from alcohol problems for several years, but had refused to resign. Prominent in postwar politics, he was Prime Minister twice but failed to gain his Centre Party's nomination in last year's presidential election.

Montreal's bus strike broken

Montreal (Reuters) - Montreal's two-day transport strike ended when 2,200 maintenance workers went back to their jobs after the Quebec Government took over their union. It was the tenth time the separatist Parti Quebecois had used emergency strike-ending legislation since being elected in 1976, largely with union support.

Pope's thanks

Rome - The Pope invited to his morning Mass yesterday doctors and nurses from the Gemelli hospital, Rome, who treated him after he was shot in St Peter's Square two years ago. He was in their care for nearly three months.

Spiljak's year

Mr Mika Spiljak, who yesterday took over as President of Yugoslavia for a one-year term. Head of the country's nine-man collective state presidency, he succeeded Mr Petar Stambolic.

Biggest bosom

Paris - Despite being condemned by the Ministry for Women's Rights as "degrading and absurd", a competition went ahead in Paris yesterday to find the biggest bosom. Won by a 21-year-old blonde secretary with a modest chest circumference of 40in, it is now to be followed by a national championship.

Final fling

Stockholm - Swedish police used tear gas to overcome an Algerian who opened fire when they arrived at his Stockholm flat to escort him to the airport for expulsion as an illegal immigrant. The fracas ended with the flat on fire.

Guides killed

Zurich (AP) - Three Swiss mountain guides trying to rescue a German who had fallen into a crevasse during a tour of the Bernina range of the Graubünden Alps were buried by an avalanche. The German tumbled out of the crevasse unaided.

Mexico rebuff

Mexico City - Within 24 hours of President Miguel de la Madrid appealing for national unity, the four-million strong Confederation of Mexican Workers, the largest in the country, called for an all-out strike on May 31 unless its members receive a 50 per cent wage increase.

Visa surprise

Moscow (AP) - Mr Sergei Batrovkin, aged 26, a founder of the Group of Establishing Trust between the USSR and the USA, yesterday received an exit visa and plans to leave for Austria with his wife and daughter, friends said. He and other Jewish "refuseniks" in the group had applied to emigrate to Israel.

Singers deviate

Moscow (Reuters) - Several singers of the Perm Opera and Ballet Theatre company, caught performing in an Orthodox church choir in their spare time, have been reprimanded and ordered to join classes in ideology, *Komsomolskaya Pravda* reported.

British election could ruin chances of successful European summit meeting

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

As the West German Government holds intensive talks on whether the European Community's summit meeting in Stuttgart can or should be postponed, political commentators here are already suggesting that the British general election will wreck Bonn's hopes for a successful meeting.

Bonn spokesmen yesterday denied that Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, would propose to Community foreign ministers meeting at Gymnich Castle this weekend that the summit be deferred until June 11 and 12.

The spokesman said Chancellor Kohl had been in touch with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, and held fast to the date already set. British sources here suggest that a postponement would be equally awkward as it would bring the meeting close to the Italian elections, and there is still an even chance that the Prime Minister may decide to come to Stuttgart on the eve of the election.

West Germany, however, has little interest in agreeing to an increase in Community spending - one of the ways the European Commission proposed money could be diverted back to Britain through additional funds for regional aid.

Herr Genscher, on the other hand, who has been criticized for what is generally considered to have been a weak and unimaginative German presidency of the EEC Commission, wants the Community to undertake a number of reforms, all of which will cost money.

Commentators here see little room for manoeuvre on the budgetary issue, and are convinced that Mrs Thatcher, for domestic political reasons, will take an extremely tough line.

Paris, France is in favour of keeping the summit to the proposed dates of June 6 and 7, but is "open to discussion" on the possibility of postponing it, the Elysee Palace said yesterday, Diana Geddes writes.

BRUSSELS: The British general election is bound to set the tone for the vital meeting of EEC foreign ministers this weekend at Gymnich, Ian Murray writes.

The main item on the agenda is the desperate need to agree the new way of financing the Community before it goes bankrupt. Central to the whole discussion is how British demands for a fairer balance to the EEC budget can be met.

Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, will be seeking to persuade his colleagues that they must stop procrastinating and make up their minds to reform the EEC's finances. Meanwhile he will insist on a rebate to British budget contributions for 1983 to tide Britain over until a longer term solution is negotiated.

Mr Pym's very firm orders from Downing Street are that the figure for the 1983 rebate must be ready for agreement no later than June 6, the date of the European summit in Stuttgart and just three days before the general election. At this weekend's informal meeting and later at the formal foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels on May 24 Mr Pym will have the responsibility of persuading member states to agree the 1983 figure.

Mrs Thatcher can be expected to make no concessions to the EEC before the general election. Equally member states are well aware the Labour Party is pledged to withdraw from the Community, something no other member state really wants to see. It is therefore in nobody's interest to have a major Community row before the British election.

Without naming Britain or West Germany, M Cheysson maintained that it was simply "not a serious attitude" to proclaim the EEC has a future while insisting at the same time the Community's resources remain at existing levels.

M Cheysson refused to commit France to getting Spain's entry negotiations completed during the six months next year when Paris occupies the Community presidency.

The visit to Señor Fernando Moran, the Spanish Foreign Minister, during which M

Cold cod and chips in Central Park

From Christopher Thomas, New York

Mr John Nisbet's business is bagpipes and fish and chips, a combination of interests he brought from his native Scotland. He runs his businesses from a scruffy little town called Kearney, a stone's throw from New York and America's most Scottish community.

In Kearney you can buy Big Fish, Smiles, Oxo cubes, Marmite and Cadbury's chocolates, all British delights not readily available in America. There are four fish and chip shops, including Mr Nisbet's, where the offerings are the real thing and not the usual frozen, processed unrecognizable stuff they serve up in neighbourhood diners and have the tenacity to call fish.

With this in mind the authorities who run Central Park in New York gave him what is known as an "ethnic food concession" so that he could sell fish and chips and meat pies to the milling multitudes who will be congregating for the Glenfiddich Highland Games being staged today and tomorrow. The High Chief of this event of enormous proportions is Charlton Heston.

Mr Heston looks unattractive in a kilt and a sporran, one of the official photographers (shown here) has him with a kilt on back-to-front. But he can rightly claim to be of Scottish descent. He will launch the caber tossing and the other antics at a press conference today.

While Mr Heston will doubtless be enjoying himself, Mr Nisbet has serious problems. The park commissioners suddenly decided that they were banning propane gas from Central Park, which left him with no means to cook and warm his goodies. So what is he going to do with mountains of beautifully fresh and fileted cod, just delivered, and 500 dozen meat pies?

He has his choice but to freeze what fish he cannot sell from his Kearney shop (called the Argyle), which is not his

'Bravo' partners condemned

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

An attack on Britain and West Germany for their attitude over the future financing of the European Community was made here yesterday by M Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister.

He criticized "EEC member states who shout 'bravo' regarding Spanish entry but refuse to resolve the financial problems so that Spain can enter in a good position," when he gave a press conference at the end of a 24-hour working visit which was designed to persuade Spain to accept French preconditions for enlarging the Community.

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Chysson also saw King Juan Carlos and Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister, was to prepare for a prolonged ministerial meeting early in July to tackle bilaterally all the problems Spanish entry poses for France's economic interests.

M Cheysson said that France's six months in the chair would probably see "horribly difficult" negotiations between the EEC and the United States over agricultural exports.

He emphasized that France wants Spain inside the EEC as soon as possible

Opposition MP held in Zimbabwe

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

Two senior members of the Zimbabwe opposition, including an MP, have been detained in the past week and violence and intimidation against opposition supporters was continuing, the acting leader of Mr Joshua Nkomo's Patriotic Front party said yesterday.

Joseph Chinamano said he had been unable to discover the reason for the detention of Mrs Thelma Lesaba, an MP for Matabeleland North, and Mr Elijah Moyo, a member of the Patriotic Front Central Committee.

Mr Chinamano, who has been acting president of the Patriotic Front since Mr Nkomo's flight to exile, said in an interview that PF supporters were still being beaten and raped by soldiers deployed in the former curfew areas of Matabeleland and the Midlands, but that the overall level of violence had subsided.

More than 1,100 civilians are estimated to have been killed in the brutal military operations of January and February to root out guerrillas and their supporters in Matabeleland.

"The brutality has gone down but there are still occasional incidents of atrocities," Mr Chinamano said.

He declined to give details until he had presented his information to Dr Sydney Sekeramayi, the minister of state (Defence) in the Prime Minister's office but said reports had been made to police and he expected the culprits to be punished.

Mr Chinamano confirmed government statements that a preliminary meeting had been held last month between three-man committees of the PF and the ruling Zanu (PF) party on the possibility of a merger, but indicated that there was no prospect of an early agreement.

Moi meets envoy after coup scare

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Sir Leonard Allinson, the British High Commissioner to Kenya, had a private meeting with President Moi yesterday. The meeting was at Sir Leonard's request, after speculation here since Mr Moi said last weekend that a foreign envoy was "grooming" another Kenyan for the presidency.

Ministers, politicians and other leaders joined in condemning the alleged "traitor", and in calling for him and the power backing him to be named.

Sir Leonard is understood to have expressed concern at the speculation and the uncertainty, while making it clear that Britain would not involve itself in such matters.

The ruling Kenya African National Union newspaper, Kenya Times, yesterday headed its leading article "Action needed to contain traitors," and said Kenyans had shown during the week that nobody could hope to impose himself on the people with the help of "foreign masters".

Recalling the attempted coup last August (when Kenyan airmen tried unsuccessfully to overthrow the Government), it added: "The foreign-inspired plot is a very serious affair that calls for strong action now. It is likely that the traitors being aided by the foreigners were the same forces that were behind the events of last year."



South Africa's outcasts

A cartoon in *Sowetan*, the main daily newspaper for South African blacks, underlines the fact that the fever which gripped the country this week, as the Government faced challenges to its constitutional reforms from both left and right in four crucial Transvaal by-elections, was primarily the concern of the country's 4.6 million whites, who form 15.8 per cent of the total population, Michael Hornsby writes from Johannesburg.

have the vote, the outcome of the by-election was at least of interest to the 2.7 million Coloureds (9.3 per cent) and 850,000 Indians (2.9 per cent) who would be able to elect representatives, albeit on segregated rolls, to a new tri-cameral legislature if the reforms are put into effect.

For the 72 per cent of the population who are black, however, the by-elections were a bore. Reform or no reform, blacks will remain without representation in the central parliament.

Police cell death treated as murder

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The death in Dirkesdorp police station in south-eastern Transvaal last week of Mr Timothy Manana (see box) is being treated as a murder case, Captain Joseph Du Pont, the investigating officer, told *The Times* yesterday.

An initial post mortem examination on Mr Manana's body indicated that he could have died of suffocation, according to informed sources. The results have not yet been made public, however, and the police say they cannot comment on them while the investigation is continuing.

being conducted into a complaint of assault lodged against the police at Dirkesdorp by Mr Manana's father, Mr Absalom Manana, who claims that he was beaten and given electric shock treatment while being detained at the same time as his son.

finding is also awaited in the case of Mr Zephaniah Sibanyoni (see box). Captain Du Pont said he did not yet know what the result would be, but he believed it would show that Mr Sibanyoni had died of "natural causes, probably from an epileptic fit".

THE DIRKESDORP VICTIMS

April 2: Mr Saul Mkhize, aged about 48, is shot dead by a white policeman from the Dirkesdorp police station. Constable J. A. Niernaber, in Dirkesdorp a black farming community in south-eastern Transvaal, Mr Mkhize, the community's elected leader, was trying to address a meeting of about 400 of its 5,000 inhabitants called to protest against their forced resettlement in tribal reserves. The policeman said the meeting was illegal and claims to have shot Mr Mkhize in self-defence.

May 3: Mr Timothy Thamba Manana, aged 38, who worked as a tractor driver on a white farm near Dirkesdorp, died in Dirkesdorp police station after being arrested the previous day on suspicion of cattle-stealing, a charge he denied.

from the Attorney-General concerning the third death connected with the Dirkesdorp police station, that of Mr Sauc Mkhize (see box). Legal sources believe he could either order an inquest into the affair or prosecute the policeman concerned for murder.

It has been disclosed, meanwhile, that police in the Boland region of the Cape are investigating the death of a Coloured schoolboy, Daniel Benjamin, aged 13, whose head was allegedly banged against a cell wall by a policeman while he and three other boys were being held on suspicion of stealing pigeons.

Opposition members have said they intend to raise the deaths in Parliament, and seek a full explanation from Mr Louis Le Grange, the Minister of Law and Order. Mr Le Grange has been strongly criticized in the past for failing to condemn police brutality.

Lawyers for Mr Manana's family have requested permission to have a second post mortem examination conducted by a private pathologist. This was to have been carried out on Thursday, but because of procedural delay, it has been postponed until next Monday.

A post mortem examination

A decision is expected soon

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THE ARTS

Cannes Film Festival

A few legal questions to try the jury

The Festival Palace, its recently pristine walls now badly stained with graffiti in red and blue paint, has been wrested back from the medical students and riot police in time for a very odd event: a special showing of Michael Winner's remade *The Wicked Lady*, and an official ceremony in honour of its producer, Menahem Golan. Since Mr Golan is a heavyweight cinema owner and mass-producer of pictures that rarely make festival grade, the gala has caused some surprise.

It appears in fact that Mr Golan considered that the festival organizers had inflicted a blow to his pride and prestige. He was announced as a member of the jury, and this too caused some surprise. A few days before the festival began, the organizers thought better of it and rather curiously told Mr Golan it was a mistake. Mistake or not, Mr Golan's understandable disappointment seemed to be shared by his lawyers. He has also been mentioned as a possible member of next year's jury.

Two British entries, Nagisa Oshihara's *Merry Christmas, Mr Lawrence*, and James Ivory's *Heat and Dust* have been shown on successive days. Terry Jones' *Monty Python, The Meaning of Life* was shown at the start of the Festival and to crown the national entry, Bill Forsyth's *Local Hero* was selected to open the Quinzaine des Réalisateurs. The reception of *Local Hero* has been as enthusiastic as any film's so far, confounding anyone who felt that indigenous Scots humour was in any way localized in appeal.

feeling and honestly anti-romantic picture of the life of a gypsy community in New York. The film is entirely acted by the gypsies themselves. Duvall found their ability to recreate their characters and their lives on the screen was remarkable, however. The star is 10-year-old (or thereabouts) Angelo Evans, whom Duvall discovered handing out leaflets on the streets to publicize his mother's palm-reading service, and Steve Tsiganoff, a beat-up old rascal with an air of self-absorbed comic villainy much like that of W. C. Fields. Without seeming to force or falsify their reality, Duvall draws out of them an admirably controlled narrative of small dramas and high comedy.

Radio Too much air

Public criticism of radio's own performance was non-existent until the arrival some years ago of *Disputed, Tunbridge Wells* when Derek Robinson began to follow up the questions and dissatisfactions raised in listeners' letters.

that emerged in the *Broadcasting Tomorrow* phone-ins (Radio 4, late 82/early 83), the programme might sometimes have a try. On the other hand, it is plain from the present style of production - fast, jokey, punctuated by music and effects - that *Feedback* has become primarily a branch of the light entertainment business.

The programme, unlike its predecessor has never become wedded to one presenter, but has rung the changes - although I reckon that the present incumbent, Tom Vernon, must also be the longest-serving. However, in the important matter of content it is, exactly like that predecessor, dependent on its listeners' response.

Another, but legitimate, contribution to light entertainment, which on its first appearance (autumn 82) failed utterly in an attempt to sound cool and sophisticated was *In the Air* it did, however, succeed in sounding tiresome and pretentious. Back for another try (Radio 4, Tuesdays and Wednesdays; producers, Julian Hale and Rosemary Atkins), I think it may have improved.

Disputed, *Tunbridge Wells*, by its perhaps not too complimentary choice of title said something about a part (though not of course all) of that response which both it and *Feedback* must arouse - unthinking overstatement or even meaningless outrage: the recent jumping up and down about the *Today* signature tune was a case in point. And if this is inevitable, so perhaps is its promotion by the programme because the sound of people jumping up and down is more exciting (and better?) broadcasted than something more sedate.

straightforward series of small charity interviews with the odd song by way of diversion. Still not marvellous, but tolerable, low-key evening listening. Jack Danby in *Bevin Boys* (Radio 4, Tuesday; producer, Susan Snaillum) took what must surely be a rich subject - the experience of those young men selected by ballot in the 1940s to do their war service in the mines. But he and his producer muffed it. Interviews with former *Bevin Boys* seemed to have been recorded mainly in a group so the excerpts from them lacked almost completely that sense of intimacy and of vivid memory resonances which such a programme demands.

However, my general view of *Feedback* on current form is that it is leaning more than it should toward excitement and performance. Though it may not be possible in this format to generate the level of discussion

David Wade



Comedy lessons: John Cleese and Graham Chapman in the new Monty Python film

Theatre Gentlemanly Jacobi

Much Ado about Nothing Barbican Comparisons are odious, as Dogberry tried to say, but the contrast between London's other two flashy and shallow Shakespeare comedy productions (National and Barbican) and the radiant intelligence, taste and charm of Terry Hands' *Ado* is too pointed to ignore. Those strengths coincide so closely with the qualities of Derek Jacobi's Benedick (and how fortunate he could transfer from Stratford with it) that it is hard to divide the honours.

and colour, sustain the Charles I period (only Nigel Hess's saccharine English-Sixties musical score jars). That era suits Jacobi's reading, which is gentlemanly, Gielgud-tradition, not rough-diamond, and establishes Claudio and Pedro - even the delectable Don John, elegantly played by John Cusack - as a Don Giovanni possibly fonder of his own sex - as van Dyck cavaliers, soldier-fops whose sense of honour makes them disastrously naive and rigid over the tragic trick that shatters Hero's marriage.



Derek Jacobi and Sinead Cusack: the right pressure

Alexander Reid's costumes, sumptuously varied in fabric and colour, sustain the Charles I period (only Nigel Hess's saccharine English-Sixties musical score jars). That era suits Jacobi's reading, which is gentlemanly, Gielgud-tradition, not rough-diamond, and establishes Claudio and Pedro - even the delectable Don John, elegantly played by John Cusack - as a Don Giovanni possibly fonder of his own sex - as van Dyck cavaliers, soldier-fops whose sense of honour makes them disastrously naive and rigid over the tragic trick that shatters Hero's marriage.

And the incessant talk of marriage, seldom brought out in performance, creates the pressure Sinead Cusack needs, young and lovely though her Beatrice still is, to speak of leading apes in hell as though she would rather be a dead spinster than a

live one, and in her gulling scene, which Hero (Doreen Ryan Shaw) and Ursula (Katy Behean) play beautifully as necessary home truths, she stands motionless, understanding how she repelled what she most needs.

As a newly arrived star (he alone) she still matches Mr Jacobi's comedy experience, ever polished, ever fresh. His boyish charm is undimmed. There are other possible interpretations than the witty-romantic but the bliss he finds in the tenderness of a happy lover is enough to make any Cupid-despising Benedick realize what he is missing and do something about it.

Court of Appeal

Television

Weekend choice

Law Report May 14 1983

No right to picket at airport land

British Airports Authority v Ashton and Others Before Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice Mann [Judgment delivered May 12] Section 15 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974 (TULRA) as amended by the Employment Act 1980, did not confer a right to attend on land, for the purposes of peaceful picketing, against the will of the owner. Nor did it affect any bylaws under which the use and operation of that land was regulated.

Law Society must disclose documents

Queen's Bench

Homes need no cause to delay demolition

In their Lordships' judgment, the case stated required an examination of three questions: (1) Were the acts of the respondents in mounting a picket at control post 8 a contravention of by-law 5(34)? (2) In remaining on the aerodrome after being requested to leave by a constable, were the respondents in breach of by-law 5(38)? (3) Was the picketing affected by section 15 of TULRA?

The decision had been twice followed in Ireland and the latest decision, *Le Ferguson Ltd v O'Gorman* (1973) IR 620 had been cited without disapproval in *Broom v DPP* (1974) AC 587. The court would accept the reasoning in *Larkin*, and conclude that section 15 of the 1974 Act neither gave a right to attend on land against the will of its owner, or the person to whom exclusive occupation had been given, nor did it affect the operation of any by-law by which the use and operation of that land was regulated.

Its ownership, unlike that of the private landowner, was subject to the right of the public to have access for the purpose of taking advantage of the services and facilities provided by the authority in pursuance of its statutory duty: see *Cinnamond*. However, access for the purpose of picketing was not a right to which the authority's ownership was subject. In regard to access for that purpose, the authority's ownership and the status of its by-laws were indistinguishable from those of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners in the *Larkin* case.

By-laws 5(34) provided: "No person shall organize or take part in any public demonstration... likely to obstruct or interfere with the proper use of the aerodrome." The crucial point was, whether there had been a "public demonstration". The justices appeared to have thought that that meant a demonstration involving members of the public. The court could not agree. The word "public" is to be construed as indicating that the demonstration occurred in public. In that sense what the respondents had done was public.

Chancery Division

Notice to Copyright Holders

The Queensland Art Gallery intends to publish art objects in its Collections. Copyright holders for these artists should contact the Director, Queensland Art Gallery, P.O. Box 686, South Brisbane Q 4101, Australia. David Young Cameron, Frank Cadogan Cowper, William Russell Flint, F. Pickford Marriott, Philip Wilson Steer. (M7261)

THE TIMES DIARY

Forearmed

Labour and the Alliance might as well give up. Not only did the 1981 Old Moore's Almanack...

Well lettered

Number two in my file of sturdy independent parliamentary candidates is David Wheatley...

Eights and nines

Peter Shore has set a high standard in my competition for the most unfulfillable promise...

Mollie sozzled

The time has come when I can reveal to those few of you who do not already know that the word for "the courising of seamen on icebound ships" is mallearmarking...

Vigilant

On April 9 I told how an ear, nose and throat surgeon bawled at a patient in whom he had diagnosed senile deafness...

Biting back

Taylor Nelson market research reports that the British breakfast fry-up is giving way to health foods...

All under control

Those who dread the hysteria of passing through airports will possibly appreciate the entertainments and attractions provided for staff and friends at the British Airports Authority's open day...

Do politicians want their bumps read? Helen and Peter Cooper, of the London School of Phrenology...

Hitler: a catalogue of errors

Lord Dacre reflects on the muddle and misinformation surrounding the fake diaries

Last month I rashly declared the "Hitler diaries" to be genuine. I then compounded this grave error by admitting it...

Before I had seen the diaries, I was very sceptical. Hitler was not known as a diarist; he was known to dislike writing...

On the form I was reassured. The handwriting of Hitler and Bormann is familiar to me; and although, as a layman, I would never regard my own view as sufficient...

I then turned to provenance. The documents, I was assured, had been supplied by the same former Wehrmacht officer who, in 1945, had salvaged them from the crashed plane...

In the circumstances, I thought I could accept these assurances. I could not believe a professional paper would discredit itself by publishing known forgeries...

There remains the question of the circumstances, I thought I could accept these assurances. I could not believe a professional paper would discredit itself by publishing known forgeries...

Working from this base, I began to consider the whole archive with the mind of a forger. How would a forger of Hitler's diaries proceed?

On April 25 Stern was holding a press conference in Hamburg. I agreed to attend it only if Mr Heidemann first came to my hotel...

On my return to England I reflected on Mr Heidemann's documents, and one of them disquieted me. It was a letter of 1908, and it seemed to me just a little too neatly contrived to confirm, and be confirmed by, a passage in August Kubizek's published account of his friendship with Hitler...

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On April 25 Stern was holding a press conference in Hamburg. I agreed to attend it only if Mr Heidemann first came to my hotel, prepared to answer questions and bring the Hess documents, of which I was particularly suspicious...

On my return to England I reflected on Mr Heidemann's documents, and one of them disquieted me. It was a letter of 1908, and it seemed to me just a little too neatly contrived to confirm, and be confirmed by, a passage in August Kubizek's published account of his friendship with Hitler...

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the captured Nazi documents in America. He had been invited to examine the diaries for an American paper, and had on a separate occasion had the same opportunity as I. Like me he had been sceptical at first, but had been converted by the evidence supplied in Zurich...

He had discovered that not one of the samples of Hitler's handwriting sent to the three experts for authentication, and authenticated by them, had come from the diaries themselves. How Stern, in so important a matter, came to submit such irrelevant samples, and to cite the authentication of them as proof of the authenticity of the diaries, is a mystery to me...

Looking back on the affair I recognize that I made a grave error in my first judgment. But within the limits which I wrongly accepted, I do not think that that judgment was irrational. Among the innumerable brickbats which have come from persons who have never seen, or been blinded by, the documents in question, I was comforted to find a long telegram of support from the world's largest dealer in historical documents, who is also the author of the standard work on the detection of forgeries...

Whether misled or not, I blame no one except myself for giving wrong advice to The Times and Sunday Times, whose editors have behaved throughout with more understanding than I deserved. I apologize to them, and to the public, for my error. It was a real error. It is small comfort to recall that it has happened before: that Carlyle was taken in by the Squire forgeries and Friedjung by the Serbo-Croat forgeries that E. H. Carr authenticated the Literary diaries and The Times took seriously the Parnell letters.

Sir Richard Attenborough replies to Salman Rushdie



Attenborough directs Ben Kingsley as the crusading Gandhi

Gandhi: faithful in spirit, the heart of the man

Apparently provoked by the fact that Gandhi has been voted more American Academy Awards than any other film in the history of British cinema, certain sections of the British press seem determined not only to denigrate the movie, but also to blacken the character of the man who is its central theme.

Latest to join the fray is Salman Rushdie, a 35-year-old novelist, winner of the Booker and other prestige prizes for fiction. Mr Rushdie, according to his own publicity material, was born in Bombay in June 1947 and left India at the age of 14.

One must assume, however, that he has additional credentials for taking it upon himself to review Gandhi (Monday, May 2) under the headline "Truth Retains When the Saint Goes Marching In" a full five months after The Times notice by resident critic David Robinson. Mr Robinson, surely the more reliable and experienced judge of cinema, began his review with the following words: "Whatever your expectations of Richard Attenborough's Gandhi, they are likely to be exceeded."

Similarly the opening sentence of David Hughes's review in The Sunday Times was: "It must tell you first that Gandhi is a masterpiece."

Salman Rushdie embarks on his tardy critique by stating that Gandhi "is inadequate as biography, appalling as history, and often laughably crude as a film."

I do not understand why this eminent young novelist should elect to mount such a virulent attack on my film but I would like to examine the three damning, damaging and distorted views he has expressed.

To bolster his opinion of the film's inadequacy as biography Mr Rushdie cites several examples of omission. He suggests that there are filmic possibilities in scenes of Gandhi lying with young women to test his vows of brahmacharya.

There are indeed, and had we wished to make a movie which merely titillated the audience, we would undoubtedly have included such scenes.

But it was not to titillate audiences that I researched the life of Gandhi for 20 years. Had that been my purpose the film would probably have been made long ago!

Mr Rushdie labours under the impression that a film biography can be equated with a written biography. In this he is entirely mistaken. Film is an entertainment medium which must, if it is to succeed at all, speak to the widest possible audience. The film maker, unlike the writer, does not have the luxury of including limitless biographical data.

Mr Rushdie states that artistic selection creates meanings, with which I agree, but then goes on to complain about the historical meanings he personally reads into our selection. We opted to show the Hunter Commission of Inquiry after the Amritsar massacre (at which point in the film Mr Rushdie appears to have been so blinded by tears that he registered it erroneously as a court-martial) simply in order to underline the full atrocity of what took place in the Jallianwala Bagh, as does Mr Rushdie in his novel.

make an artistic selection of historical fact. That he does not elect to explore the ramifications of the massacre, except insofar as they affected the lives of his characters, is his choice as a storyteller. As a film maker, I claim the same privilege. And yet because I do not choose to show the subsequent reaction to Dyer's actions in Britain since it is not pivotal to the story of Gandhi, Mr Rushdie claims I have perpetrated "an unforgivable distortion."

I believe I may fairly level the same accusation at his statement that Pandit Nehru was not Gandhi's disciple. "They were equal, and they argued fiercely," he writes emphatically. Had he had the privilege, as I did on a number of occasions, of talking to Pandit Nehru about his relationship with Gandhi, Salman Rushdie would have learnt that Nehru did indeed regard himself as Gandhi's disciple and said so freely. However, even denied my first hand knowledge, one would surely expect such an expert on the customs of India to be aware of the respect that is invariably shown by the young to their elders. Neither Nehru nor any other Hindu would regard himself as the equal of a man 19 years his senior.

Mr Rushdie further deems that the inclusion of Subhas Chandra Bose, whom he chooses to call guerrilla, would have improved the film but that Bose was "selected out" because he was violent. This is arrant nonsense. He was excluded because his story was not central to Gandhi's life and, told properly, would have added some 15 or 20 minutes to the film.

We see and hear the counter-arguments to non-violence all round us every day - Ireland, the Middle East, in Africa, throughout the world. What we do not see and hear very often, if at all, is Gandhi's proposition that there may be another way. I say may advisedly. Personally I very much doubt that satyagraha would have worked against the Nazis since the power of world opinion is a vital adjunct to

Much more important, it is an artist's personal tribute, deeply felt and simply expressed, to the spiritual worth of another human being.

Finally, I must refute Mr Rushdie's unwarranted accusations about the way in which the film depicts Mahatma Gandhi's assassination. Had he been watching the screen attentively he might have noted that the assassin does not "simply step out of the crowd with a gun."

Nathuram Godse is shown on four separate occasions in the film, most particularly reacting violently to Gandhi's words of religious reconciliation. In terms of screen storytelling, he is established neither as a "lone nut" nor as the representative of a whole people turned against Gandhi. As to Godse representing the Crucifixion and my seeking to portray Gandhi as a latter day Christ, this is not only blasphemous but totally untrue.

John Briley, the screen writer, and I were convinced that a major reason for making the film was to show that Gandhi was not a deity but a flesh and blood man - a man who had his full share of tears and foibles. I am fully aware that in just over three hours' screen time one cannot relate an entire biography. Indeed, the forward to the film reads: "No man's life can be encompassed in one telling; there is no way to give each year its allotted weight, to include each event, each person who helped to shape a lifetime. What can be done is to be faithful in spirit to the record, and try to find one's way to the heart of the man."

I have tried in this reply to Salman Rushdie's scurrilous attack on Gandhi the film and on Gandhi the man to explain some facts of which he seems to be ignorant. But it may be that he has scant regard for facts or truth since, as I have said before, his trade is fiction. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that the narrator of his prize-winning novel (a story in which dates are crucial) places the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi between the end of February and the month of September in 1948. Factually the assassination took place on January 30 of that year.

I feel sure that a writer of his repute would not make such a mistake unintentionally and having no experience whatsoever as a literary critic, it is not for me to hazard an opinion as to what extent his novel may be autobiographical. But when the hero of Midnight's Children discovers his mistake, a chapter and a half later, he justifies it with the following words: "Re-reading my work, I have discovered an error in chronology. The assassination of Mahatma Gandhi occurs, in these pages, on the wrong date. But I cannot say, now, what the actual sequence of events might have been; in my India, Gandhi will continue to die at the wrong time."

"Does one error invalidate the whole fabric? Am I so far gone, in my desperate need for meaning, that I'm prepared to distort everything - to rewrite the whole history of my times purely in order to place myself in a central role?"

I do think that, before he embarked on his distorted review of Gandhi, Mr Rushdie might have done well to ask himself the same question.

Towards the end of his "review", Salman Rushdie encapsulates his opinion of Gandhi with the words: "It is the best film of 1983. God bless the film industry." The Times critic, David Robinson, in common with a majority of his colleagues throughout the world, had a rather different summation, writing: "It is a major contribution to a year of thrilling success for British films."

David Butler

How TV could tip the balance

Does the future resemble the past? If so, this election is already over. By every postwar precedent, Mrs Thatcher's victory is beyond challenge. The latest polls put her ahead by up to 21 per cent. And, though campaigns have changed voters' minds, none has eroded a lead as big as that.

In 1951 the Labour government pulled back from a 10 per cent deficit to a narrow defeat. In 1970 Mr Wilson, after a long trough, rose into the lead three weeks before the dissolution, only to lose by 3 per cent. In February 1974 Mr Heath started with a 6 per cent advantage before he lost in that almost tied contest. But those were the extreme cases. In eight other elections, the movement between the pollsters' reports at the start of the campaign and the final outcome was relatively small. Mr Foot or Mr Jenkins will indeed have to break the mould of British campaigns if Mrs Thatcher is to be upset.

Yet the future does not necessarily resemble the past. The reason so many commentators refuse to accept a Conservative victory as a preestablished fact lies not only in their natural desire to please their readers in the excitement of an open race, but also from the experience of the last decade and, above all, of the last two years. British voters are different today from those once-solid creatures of habit that we learnt to know and trust in the 1950s. They, or many of them, have lost their traditional roots in class and parental loyalties and have started to switch from day to day under the stimulus of events.

Consider the evidence. From 1945 to 1965, the party lead in the monthly Gallup poll only twice fluctuated within one calendar year by as much as 10 per cent. Allowing for the chances of sampling, it was a period of incredible stability. But since 1965 there have been hardly any years in which to date has not moved by at least 15 per cent. In 1982, according to MORI, the Conservative vote went from 27 per cent to 48 per cent. Since the Alliance's foundation in March 1981, its support rose from 15 per cent to 44 per cent, but now stands at 20 per cent. Local elections have shown a similar pattern.

By-elections have been even more transformed. From 1945 to 1959, only 4 per cent of contests yielded a change of party. From 1979 to 1983, 35 per cent have done so. In Bournemouth, Liberal support rose from 20 to 57 per cent during the campaign. In Darlington, SDP support fell from 36 to 24 per cent. Vote switching has plainly moved into fashion. After this has happened, no politician (and no pollster) can feel secure, even when the evidence suggests a handsome lead.

How are we to account for the new volatility? Once there was little cause to challenge the popular belief that the children of Labour men would vote Labour, or that

owner/occupiers were Tories and council tenants were socialists. But nowadays there has been a vast increase in floating voters. And there are several reasons.

The first is that electors are more educated; successive rises in the school leaving age, as well as changes in the curriculum and teaching methods, have left some changing class structure, both through a diminished difference in standards of living and through greater mobility.

In 1945, 30 per cent of the British electorate lived in owner-occupied houses. Now the figure is 60 per cent. In 1945, 75 per cent of the British electorate could be classed as manual workers. Now the figure is 50 per cent. Those changes involve a vast increase in the number of people who are cross-pressured in their voting between working class family traditions and new middle class attributes.

The third reason lies in the history of the last 20 years. Britain has declined in the world league. And Britain has had four changes of government. The years after 1964, and again after 1974, taught Labour voters that it was not just the wicked Tories who were holding the country back. The years after 1970 and again after 1979 taught Conservatives that it was not all the fault of the silly socialists.

But the biggest reason seems to lie in the transformation of political communications. In the 1950s most citizens got most of their political information from one of the highly partisan Fleet Street newspapers, which usually reinforced their own prejudices and helped them to see the Westminster battle as a contrast between virtue and vice. But since the arrival of television and of politics on television, with carefully balanced coverage, the public vision of the parties has been transformed.

Politicians quickly learned, when intruding into the viewer's domestic space, to abandon the licensed rudeness of the Commons and the hustings. They made plain in their persuasive reasonableness how much the parties' policies overlapped, and, even more, they showed themselves as similar human types. After a few years of watching politics on television, the ordinary, mildly committed citizen found it much harder to see the party battle as a struggle between angels and devils.

In the last generation voters have become increasingly cynical, perceiving their task in the polling booth as a selection of the lesser evil, hesitantly aware that they are making a marginal choice and quite ready to be persuaded up to the last minute that the other side might after all be the better bet. That is why all commentators, not to mention all politicians, are running scared.

The author is a Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford.

Paul Pickering

Humour, yes, but far from a joke

We met in Hedley's tea rooms in Dunganon: "A small country town with holes, dear, just like Swiss cheese," chortled Aunt Sylvia. "But the very best place for raspberry pavlovas in Ulster. Very wicked but irresistible." Betty ordered a youth to stop playing a space invader machine, and he did.

When I accidentally acquired a clutch of Irish relatives my romantic assumption was that they must be a poor Catholic family who had fought for centuries against injustice. It was quite a surprise to find a rich, Protestant clan, led by my formidable aunts Betty and Sylvia, who seem prepared to take on anyone to stem in the green rolling countryside of the Murder Triangle.

They are not cold-hearted bigots, said Betty, but have as well developed and appreciative a sense of humour as any Catholic. To illustrate this the two ladies told the story of how my cousin William managed to lose his Ulster Defence Regiment pistol over the border in Dublin while going to a party at Trinity University. This is the sort of harmless little mishap international incidents are made of.

"It really was my fault when I packed his case," said Betty. "I put the gun in without thinking because up here they are meant to have it with them at all times in case the IRA try anything. He tied the case on the back of his motorbike and went to Dublin."

"Then somewhere by the Liffey the case, which had been tied on quite tightly fell off, and by the time he realised and went back it was gone. He didn't know his weapon was in there until he phoned home. When I told him he got in quite a panic and said he could be court-martialled. So we couldn't report it."

"We then had a call from a nice sounding man with a soft southern accent who had traced us from the address on the case. He said he had both the gun and the case and we could collect it. The man lived in a part of Dublin where the IRA have their hidey holes so William thought it was a trap."

My cousin, by this time back in the North, gathered a small Doonee like force of men to go in hot pursuit of his pistol: "The type of individuals who would even beat themselves up if left alone for a long time," one relative had commented as the fierce band left. They surrounded the Dublin house.

"William was shaking when he went to the door," said Sylvia. "The others were close in behind him when the man opened it. He turned out to be a Catholic ex-soldier who had been in the Guards in England and gave William a proper dressing down and had even cleaned the pistol for him."

"The soldier had invited some friends round, just in case there was trouble, who turned out to be republicans. So they decided to open a bottle to break the tension. It was just like that time in the First World War when the Germans and British shook hands across the trenches."

"Just imagine, Protestants from Dunganon singing rebel songs. They even had to come back across the border by an old IRA and smuggling route to avoid being brazenly seized by the RUC."

Aunt Betty then told me a most unusual place to carry a gun if one doesn't want it to be found in a body search, and she ordered another pavlova.

Only poor cousin William was made to look a silly Billy by the Dublin adventure. "By his now concentrating on being a Mason instead of a Catholic, he's a good fellow," said Sylvia, chortling with laughter over her high tar cigarette.

"It's our sense of humour that keeps us going," said Betty. "I have known people start telling jokes straight after a bombing, like the one about the IRA man who is refused admission to heaven by St Peter but says, 'Sorry father, but you don't understand, I'm here to give you three minutes warning!'"

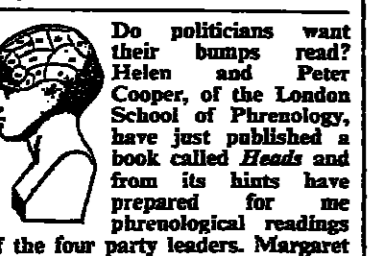
"Aunt Betty's own anti-terrorist device is a long hat pin kept behind the door, a weapon of the ruling class not quoted in the guerrilla manuals of Che Guevara."

"I don't care if the IRA get elected, everyone hates politicians. But if they start throwing their weight about we'll show them we can be difficult. Won't we dear," demanded Sylvia. "More tea?"

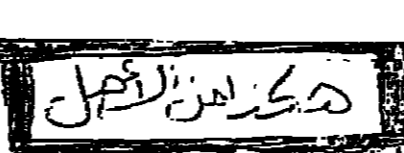
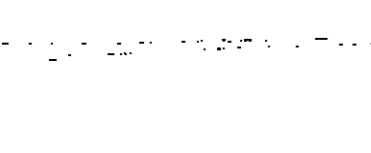
When we left Aunt Betty drove straight past the iron faced constable hunched nastily over his machine gun at the security check point where we were meant to stop. "To think his mother dressed him as a girl until he was nine. He wouldn't dare stop me."

Back home Sylvia cuddled her cat Kipling. "We laugh and on the whole things are better, but please don't just regard us as an old joke or the laugh will be on you dear," I promised never to be bigoted about Protestants again.

PHS



PHS



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TOP PEOPLE TAKE WHAT COMES

Some bets are safer than others in politics, but taken all round we will probably never find a safer one than the wager that no cabinet will ever be seen going to the country on the electoral appeal of having just awarded itself a 47 per cent pay rise. As for ordinary MPs, they may secretly have reservations about the emphasis that Mrs Thatcher put this week on her hope that they would find it impossible to accept the slightly smaller increases dangled before them by the Plowden report, but they all know in their hearts that life will be easier on the hustings for not having to explain away a pay rise of 30 per cent when most of their constituents can expect below six per cent this year. For public pay budgets the official ceiling is only 3.5 per cent.

There are glaring electoral reasons for not implementing the Plowden recommendations for the commons now. The decision will still be a mainly political one even after the election. Money is certainly a significant influence but it is seldom a crucial one on the number and quality of those seeking to become MPs. What Members pay themselves sheds such an embarrassing light on appeals for national pay restraint that no comparability study (necessarily strained) can be much to the point. But the fear

of headlines also tends to influence decisions about other top salaries where there is less excuse for it.

All the groups covered by this week's reviews have suffered from this tendency in the past, and forgone part of awards recommended by their review bodies, just to encourage the others. There is never a right time for restoring these enforced sacrifices (justifiable only at times of real emergency). The loss tends to be cumulative, and thus increasingly difficult to make up. For the 1,800 in the Top Salaries category the problem is one of publicity and not cost, for their pay is a drop in the ocean of the departmental budgets which are the Government's main concern. Servicemen and doctors are more numerous.

What the Government has done is to endorse the increases for the latter groups, and leave the top salaries on one side. All these awards are well above the going rate, though the latter are especially so, and more controversial. It is excusable for a Government which has put its fate in the hands of the electorate to defer very controversial decisions which can be put off without risk, for there is a kind of discourtesy to the voter about rushing in unnecessarily. But the next administration should not

let controversy deter it from implementing the awards in full.

The cumulative erosion must be arrested some time or it will do harm. The review body bases its recommendations not on a claim that admirals and Lords of Appeal should always enjoy the standard of life to which they have been accustomed, but on comparisons with positions of comparable responsibility, and (still more to the point) positions which are more or less direct counter-attractions for the individuals concerned, in industry or at the Bar. It is because political pressures tend inherently to depress awards in these areas that review bodies exist, to assess, recommend, and occasionally have their recommendations set aside at times of grave need.

Mrs Thatcher declared that she accepted the top salaries review's "cogent" arguments last year, before announcing that she meant to scale them down all the same. If setting aside becomes routine, the machinery becomes an irrelevance. It is no coincidence that the review bodies for doctors and for top salaries both hint strongly that another rejection would cause the system to lose credibility. Its collapse would mean more unrest in the professions, and more odium from all quarters for the Government as arbiter.

THE SOVIETS BEHIND SYRIA

Mr George Shultz is not a man who readily takes no for an answer. When he visited Damascus last Saturday, he found the Syrians, in his own words, "hardly enthusiastic" about the agreement between Israel and Lebanon. Yet when he returned home on Wednesday he told President Reagan he was "confident" that Syria would eventually agree to withdraw her troops from Lebanon in parallel with those of Israel; because, he said, "there is a wave of opinion building up in the Arab world that this is the opportunity to bring about an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon along with all foreign forces".

Mr Shultz is presumably basing his view on the evidence of his own conversations with King Husain of Jordan and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. Neither is precisely representative of Arab opinion at large (who is?) but both have some sense of what they can get away with. In this instance what King Husain says is less important because he no longer has any influence in Damascus. King Fahd, who is Syria's bank manager, is the one the Americans are counting on. They were encouraged by the fact that President Assad flew off to see him right after Mr Shultz's trip, and Mr Casper Weinberger derived further encouragement from his own talks with Prince Sultan, the Saudi defence minister, in Paris on Thursday.

For experienced Middle East watchers, however, this reliance on the Saudis to deliver Syria is one of the least reassuring aspects of the whole affair. Overestimation of Saudi influence - or of Saudi willingness to use that influence, which comes

to much the same thing - has been a key element in past American failures in the region.

The Saudi relationship with Syria is, in fact, somewhat reminiscent of the American relationship with Israel. On paper both Syria and Israel are client states, utterly dependent on their respective patrons. In practice the tail wags the dog, because the patron governments are more afraid of what the client state might do to them than vice versa. In the Saudi case, King Fahd and his brothers fear Syria for all sorts of reasons, ranging from straight forward assassination to loss of the last possible channel of influence on Ayatollah Khomeini's Iran.

That does not mean that the situation in Lebanon is hopeless. As Mr Shultz has pointed out, Syria is not actually being asked to approve the Israeli-Lebanese agreement as such. She is being asked not to use it as a pretext for refusing to withdraw her own forces at the request of the Lebanese government - a request which is now being made formally for the first time. It may be that her present negative attitude, and the reinforcement of both Syrian and Palestinian forces in Lebanon, are only a kind of negotiating tactic aimed at securing Syrian advantages in Lebanon corresponding to - or, more likely, better than - those which Israel obtains under the Shultz agreement. But whatever President Assad's real aims it would be unwise to count on Saudi pressure to alter them. It would also be unwise to assume that the alternative is simply to freeze the present situation in Lebanon, bad as that would be. As so often in the Middle East,

there is a real danger that if things do not get better they will get even worse, and quite quickly too.

Mr Shultz implicitly acknowledged the limits of American (and Saudi) influence last Tuesday when he called publicly on the Soviet Union to "get on the side of peace". Soviet support for Syria has lately been stepped up, and that is one of the reasons that President Assad feels strong enough to resist Saudi and American pressure. Syria is not committed unconditionally to a pro-Soviet position, but Mr Shultz will find it difficult to woo her away from the Russians unless he is actually in a position to offer the return of occupied Syrian territory (the Golan Heights). Since it is hard to imagine Israel agreeing to this in advance of negotiation, if at all, it may well be that the Russians now enjoy an effective veto on further progress towards peace on any front.

Of course that does not mean that all or any Soviet pretensions in the Middle East have to be accepted. But it may well mean that a renewed American-Soviet dialogue on the Middle East is now essential. On October 1 1977 the two superpowers were able to agree on the broad lines of a desirable settlement. Since then Soviet criticism has been directed much more at American procedures - procedures from which the Soviet Union has been excluded - than at American objectives. Perhaps it is time for the West to explore ways of canalizing the Soviet Union's undoubted influence on Syria and the Palestinian organizations into real and practical progress towards peace.

WIRED FOR LIES

In the dark record of Soviet penetration of British secrets history has a grim habit of repeating itself. In 1952 intense pressure from the United States after the conviction of Klaus Fuchs and the defection of Whitehall to introduce positive vetting. Thirty years later a similar cycle of security lapse and prompting from Washington has led to a further tightening of Britain's anti-mole mesh.

The Americans, whose intelligence organizations have been locked into ours by both Treaty and mutual self interest since 1946, have a right to complain stridently when a spy as damaging as Prime is unmasked, particularly as he was uncovered by accident. The original police interest in him stemmed from his sexual deviation rather than the political perversion implicit in his pro Soviet leanings. Yet there is an element of holier-than-thou in Washington's attitude. An audit recently conducted by this newspaper into the number of defections and/or espionage convictions since 1943 produced the following tally: United States 57; United Kingdom 25.

The Security Commissioner's findings on Prime, though containing a battery of sensible, practical improvements in technique in what can never be a fool-proof procedure will be remembered as the occasion

when the polygraph (or lie detector) joined the defensive armoury of the positive vetting procedure. The United States authorities told the Commissioners they were certain that NSA polygraphs would have picked up an American equivalent of Prime. The Commissioners became convinced that polygraphs in Cheltenham would have kept Prime out of the Government Communications Headquarters.

The Council of Civil Service Unions does not like the idea and has denounced its use as an un-British activity that will be inefficient and unjust to boot. The Council's strictures should not be dismissed as a routine Labour movement knee jerk against anything Mrs Margaret Thatcher does, since Whitehall's unions have usually cooperated responsibly and sensibly in such matters since Mr Atlee introduced his rudimentary pre-positing vetting "purge procedure" in 1948, when MI5, the Treasury and the unions agreed to operate jointly a "no martyrs policy". But in this case the Council is wrong. Alternative work in non-sensitive areas would wherever possible be found for officials denied clearance.

It is very proper that there should be concern about polygraphs. There are pleasanter ways of spending a morning than being wired up by the gentlemen of MI5, but there is a clear need

to reassure the United States in this area. The very special intelligence relationship between Washington and Whitehall is central to the defence of the West.

The Prime Minister has therefore accepted the sensible and welcome controls of the use of polygraphs recommended by the Security Commission. The technique will only be applied to persons serving in the security and intelligence agencies; and only when questions such as "have the other side ever tried to recruit you?" rather than "do you have trouble with your wife or bank manager?" have to be asked. The Commissioners have recognised the unreliability of polygraphs and warned that an adverse finding of itself must not be deemed conclusive. Equally daft, though the Security Commission does not say it would be to assume that anybody who has cleared the lie detector hurdle is demonstrably clean.

Positive vetting is, has always been, and will remain voluntary. If an official does not want to endure it, Whitehall will find him work outside the Minister's private office, the nuclear side of the Ministry of Defence or the secret agencies. A post in a sensitive section of government service is a privilege not a right even for an established civil servant. The nation's security in these most sensitive areas is too important to be trifled with.

Politics and the priestly vocation

From Captain Christopher Ward, RN

Sir, As a Roman Catholic officer serving in the Royal Navy, and formerly the second-in-command of the Polaris Submarine Squadron, I take exception to Canon Oestreicher's attempt (May 11) to politicise the vital priestly role of the Roman Catholic chaplains serving their flocks in our nuclear bases.

In common no doubt with my fellow laymen I see that role above all as bringing the spiritual grace and human consolation of the sacraments to us - essential in our difficult pilgrimage both as Catholics and as peacekeepers tasked with maintaining the nuclear deterrent.

Our chaplains have no cause "... to return to parish ministry"; they already have their parishes, of Service men and women and their families. And, pace Mr Bruce Kent, they do, with their parishioners, find time to "... tell their rosary beads", recognising the eternal wisdom of the central tenet of St Benedict's rule: "Nothing is more important than praising and petitioning God".

No, our chaplains' role is totally non-political and may it always be so, lest it be said of us, as in his Templeton Address Solzhenitsyn said of so many others, "men have forgotten God". It is surely the summation of every priest's vocation that men should be helped not to forget their God.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER WARD,
The Flat,
Newfield,
Entry Hill Drive,
East,
Aston,
May 11.

CND and communism

From Lord Home of The Hirsel, KT

Sir, Mrs Collins has properly corrected me. The organisation of which Canon Collins was chairman at the time of the incident I described (May 9) was not the Peace Pledge Union, but Christian Action. I apologise to her for that error.

I had not in my speech named Christian Action as one of the bodies penetrated by communists, but the Canon thought that I had implied it - hence his letter to me.

I very much regret if anything I wrote has been interpreted by anyone as a reflection on the character or integrity of the Canon. That is the last thing I intended. We may have differed in politics, but I respected him and I still do as an outstanding Christian leader.

Yours sincerely,
HOME,
House of Lords,
May 11.

Opinion poll figures

From Dr John Woodman

Sir, Both opinion polls and the local elections show that of 20 potential voters, only four have decided to vote. Conservative, three Labour and two Alliance. Experience shows that three will not vote and consequently the remaining eight will make up their minds between now and the election.

Reports of polls omit the "don't know" and summarize this situation as "a seven point lead for the Conservatives". These reports must be "damned lies" or, even worse, "statistics".

Yours faithfully,
J WOODMAN,
111, Knowle Lane,
Sheffield,
May 10.

From Mr David M. R. Keate

Sir, Cut and come again? Yours faithfully,
DAVID M. R. KEATE,
52 Huntingdon Road,
Cambridge,
May 10.

Sponsorship on TV

From Mr Patrick Derham

Sir, The BBC stance over sponsorship in televised soccer matches is surely devoid of any logic when one considers their attitude over show-jumping.

Almost without exception the show-jumping fraternity are sponsored and are constantly referred to by the commentators with their trade prefix. One example is Harvey Smith who rides for Team Sanyo.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ensuring justice in ultimate things

From Mr Peter Farr

Sir, We owe, as you rightly say, (leading article, May 12) a debt to Mr Solzhenitsyn (feature, May 11). In speaking of the Soviet system he speaks with personal authority of what we in the West can know only at second hand. But in speaking of spiritual poverty in the West, he speaks of things which we no longer wish to know. He echoes Mother Teresa: there is a spiritual poverty in the West as deep and ultimately destructive as material poverty in the slums of Calcutta.

You say the churches keep pace with whose values are material and rational "in order to appear relevant". In some - perhaps too many - cases, you may be right. But in the last analysis you are deeply wrong.

The twin concept of justice between man and man, and between God and man, are woven together into the whole fabric of the Judeo-Christian teaching. Justice between God and man is primary; but if justice between man and man does not follow from it, man's love of God, as Jesus made crystal clear, is as empty of meaning as, in recent decades, our English churches have been of people.

There is a distinction between what is personal and what is private. The foundations of religion are personal and individual or they are nothing. What must be built on them can in no way be private. The purely "social" gospel has no foundation, but you do less than justice to those many who, in recent years, have dug out and relaid the foundations within themselves in private, but have then discovered (often at some personal cost) the absolute necessity to build on them in public.

Yours faithfully,
PETER FARR,
12 Beech Lees Road,
Kewington,
Sevenoaks, Kent.

Wildlife sites

From Mr Christopher Headlam

Sir, According to your Environment Correspondent (report, May 2) the "Rayner" review of the Nature Conservancy Council "reasoned that declaration of an official site can trigger off a piece of public spending. Yet the council's sole right to designate has placed that type of public spending outside the direct control of the Government".

One can hardly call that sort of statement "reasoning". The designation of agricultural sites, and the criteria for them have been set out in the NERC (National Environment Research Council) and NCC publication, *A Nature Conservation Review, 1977*.

The criteria, and their application to a particular site, may be as arguable as the designation of agricultural and forestry land into classes after survey. But the concept of scientific assessment must surely be an entirely proper function of the

Desirable residence

From Mrs Nicola D. M. Orlebar

Sir, May I bring Sir Reginald Hibbert (May 10) to task over his "desirable residence" not being found in Richmond or Twickenham? Kings and queens from Edward I, through Elizabeth I, to George III held court in Richmond. Innumerable dukes, earls and lords have found the town adequate. J. C. Bach, George Eliot, Gainsborough, Emma, Lady Hamilton, Pope, Reynolds, Sheridan, Turner, Walpole and many others have found inspiration while living there.

Size, accessibility and style were presumably considered by these notables and not found to be lacking. Richmond and Twickenham are not in the middle of nowhere; they are south-west of London and well worth living in.

Yours faithfully,
NICOLA D. M. ORLEBAR,
Holt Cottage,
Fairbairn Lane,
Oshott,
Surrey.

Appeal of bells

From Mr R. Danson

Sir, Your readers both here and in Washington D C, may be interested to know that the bells of All Saints' Spelsbury, the parish church of Ditchley are also receiving attention at this time.

As befits a rural parish with a may misunderstand the whole article. The editors of *The Times* entitled my article, "Please give Poland a chance". It suggested that the Polish Government believes that without lifting Nato sanctions against Poland my country is left without a chance and thus supplicates to the West. Indeed, as a result of the changed title, some Western newspapers have interpreted my article as "Poland's craving for mercy", which it absolutely was not. I suggested the title: "Poland does not wish to be a volcano".

Among several distortions of the political meaning of my article I wish to point at just one. I wrote that introduction of martial law in Poland "... destroyed Reagan's dreams about an eruption of the Polish volcano and, consequently, his hopes for Soviet intervention opening up a desirable conflict in Europe".

The editors of *The Times* rewrote the thought in the following manner: "Martial law dashed Reagan's hopes about the eruption of a Polish volcano which would cause Soviet

From Ms Maeve Denby and others

Sir, We protest against Alexander Solzhenitsyn's *Templeton Address*, which you have partly published (May 11) and editorially praised (May 12).

We deny that the evils of this or any age derive from the loss of faith in God, or that godlessness leads inevitably to revolution or oppression. We reply that for centuries all kinds of suffering and persecution have been accepted and justified by religion in general and Christianity in particular, as may be seen in the history of all countries - and especially of Solzhenitsyn's own country long before the revolution.

We insist that atheists and other non-religious people are just as much concerned as Christians and other religious people with matters of right and wrong, with individual freedom and social welfare, and with the future of humanity, as may be seen in the work of so many humanists, secularists and rationalists - especially in their opposition to tyranny, whether left-wing or right-wing, whether religious or anti-religious. (Even Solzhenitsyn must recognise the part played by Andrei Sakharov.)

We suggest that Solzhenitsyn seems to be less at home with facts than with fiction and we regret that he should use his great talent and strong position to distort the truth about religious and non-religious ideas and actions.

MAEVE DENBY,
British Humanist Association,
BARBARA SMOKER,
National Secular Society,
NICOLAS WALTER,
Rationalist Press Association,
As from:
88 Islington High Street, N1.

From Mrs Mabel Tait

Sir, The Russians did an immeasurable service for the free world when they expelled Alexander Solzhenitsyn from Russia.

Yours faithfully,
MABEL TAIT,
Fairwind,
8 Moorlands Road,
Budleigh Salterton,
Devon,
May 11.

government agencies specifically created for this purpose.

Any compensation to landowners or users for not destroying such sites is a different matter, and has been dealt with by Parliament under the recent *Wildlife and Countryside Act*.

In principle, can the public spending under this concept differ from the public spending on grants to agriculture and forestry?

If Parliament, in decreasing such compensation, has raised the possibility of conflict between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Environment in handing out taxpayers' money, that responsibility lies with Parliament in not resolving satisfactorily questions of land use in the national interest.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER HEADLAM,
Dallachie,
Fearn,
Ross-shire,
May 3.

Point at issue

From Mr D. L. Osborne

Sir, Your readers may be amused to know that I have just received a quotation from a leading life assurance office for a "male, aged 42, next birthday".

Are insurers now working on rates based on the date of conception? Yours faithfully,
D. L. OSBORNE,
11 Thorpewood Avenue, SE26.

intervention and a widespread European conflict".

I wrote that the US President dreamed about Soviet intervention in Poland, while the editors of *The Times* changed the sentence so as to imply that the Polish Government, which I represent, expected Soviet intervention in Poland. It is not true. The change has twisted a politically essential meaning.

I believe that such changes are tantamount to professional dishonesty and abuse of editorial rights. Therefore, I consider Mr Boyes's protest unfounded and, consequently, expect that the editors of *The Times* will either publish this letter in full, or will print a correction in a form customarily accepted by your newspaper.

Sincerely yours,
J. URBAN, Under Secretary of State, Council of Ministers, and Press Spokesman for the Government of the Polish People's Republic,
Al. Ujazdowski,
Warsaw,
April 7.

Making plans for extra work

From Mr P. J. Purton

Sir, In October, 1981, the Secretary of State published the report of his property advisory group. The decision of the Secretary of State for the Environment to issue a circular is timely and welcomed by the Law Society.

One problem with which developers are faced is an indication by local planning authorities that planning permission will be available for development not on the planning merits of the application alone but provided the developer enters into an agreement which will provide for works to be carried out or a financial commitment to be incurred by the developer which could not properly be imposed as a condition on the planning permission.

Where such additional works are a direct result of the granting of planning permission, e.g., a minor road improvement, there can be no objection. But a feeling has grown up amongst developers that some "planning gain" must be offered in circumstances where planning consent should be a *sine qua non*.

In consequence there have been many instances where local authorities have been demanding, as a *quid pro quo* for the grant of planning permission, the execution of works or the payment of sums of money which have no relationship at all with the development the subject of the planning application. This is now encouraged by some ambitious statements in structure and local plans, the latter subject to approval only by the district council.

The Law Society takes the view that the proposed circular should give a clear indication to local planning authorities and to developers that the circumstances in which planning gain agreements can properly be required as a prerequisite to the granting of planning permission are specific and frequent. In the absence of any direct statutory control over the actions of local authorities in this situation, the draft circular appears somewhat bland.

Sooner or later it seems to the Law Society that legislation will have to be enacted to link the statutory provisions relating to the grant of planning permission and agreements relating to "planning gain".

It would be comparatively simple to build into the appeal system an arbitration procedure, the effect of which would be to enable the Secretary of State (or possibly the Lands Tribunal) to arbitrate on the terms and conditions of a planning gain agreement which is required before planning permission can properly be granted - perhaps even to provide that planning consent may be granted subject to completion of such an agreement.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. PURTON, Chairman,
Planning Law and Land Development Committee,
The Law Society,
113 Chancery Lane, WC2,
May 10.

Not open to the public

From The Duke of Bedford

Sir, The witch hunt being carried out by the *Daily Mail* against the poor old National Trust for not allowing the public to be able to see their staff houses makes no practical sense at all.

It is completely impracticable and uneconomic to spend a minimum of £80,000 to construct a car and coach park, visitors' lavatories, protective floor coverings, ropes, posts and guide books and insurance to view three or four rooms.

From a visitor's point of view it would not be worth while to pay the high entrance fee involved because of the high capital outlay that would have to be undertaken and the cost of guides, which is the same if four rooms or 40 are being shown. There is also the cost of petrol and transportation. No one finds it good value to spend a lot of money to drive for miles and be in and out of a place in a maximum of 15 minutes.

I am sure the staff houses are charmingly furnished but contain little or nothing for the connoisseur and little for the plain nose; that they could not see in their friends' houses. Certainly nothing to compare with what the Trust show in their hundreds of houses and to which, with about 30 exceptions, the public does not expect itself to visit in any great numbers in any case.

Sir, I have the honour to remain, Your obedient servant,
BEDFORD,
7 rue Basse,
MC 98000,
Monsie,
April 27.

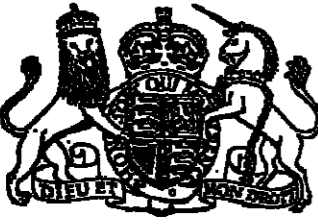
Security cheque

From Dr Robertson Towart

Sir, There has recently been much publicity about cheque card frauds, and the English clearing banks have recently introduced new Eurocheque cards for use abroad as one measure to counteract this problem. When my wife and I applied for these cards from our local bank, they arrived, by ordinary post, clearly distinguishable as credit cards in an otherwise empty envelope.

On the Continent, where I worked for several years, the banks refused to send cheque cards through the post, and demanded signed acknowledgement of receipt. Perhaps some such attention to elementary security could reduce cheque card frauds in this country?

I remain, Sir, etc
ROBERTSON TOWART,
6 Penryth Green,
Stoke Poges,
Slough, Buckinghamshire,
May 7.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE May 13: The Queen held a Council at Windsor Castle at 10.00 o'clock this morning.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. I. Waller and Miss S. G. Tanner The marriage will take place between Irvin, younger son of the Right Hon Sir George and the Hon Lady Waller, of Henway, near Haslemere, and Susan, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Tanner, of Edmonton, Alberta, on May 22, 1983 at 79 Park Avenue, Ottawa, Canada.

Marriages

Mr C. L. East and Miss M. E. Heyler The engagement is announced between Richard Colin, son of Mrs D. R. J. Hamilton and the late Mr G. A. East of Derby, and Alison Margaret, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. N. Glover, of Leeds.

Church news

Appointments The Rev W. B. Bence, Vicar of St. Andrew's, has been appointed to the vacant position of Vicar of St. Andrew's, Winchester, in the Diocese of Winchester, to be vacant from the end of the year.

Services tomorrow: Sunday after Ascension

St Andrew's Church, 11.30. St. Andrew's Church, 11.30. St. Andrew's Church, 11.30.

How the disillusioned can advance

We readily recognize idealism as a force for change in society. We are less inclined to see the power of disillusionment, a power that frequently lies in the concealed nature of the disillusionment. As a hidden force its power is largely negative; as a recognized force it can be harnessed and become a source of creative energy.

Latest wills

Tory MP leaves £800,000 Lieutenant-Colonel John Curtis Lockwood, former Conservative MP, left £801,690 net.

University news

London Appointment Professor Donald Anthony Low, MA, D.Phil., Senior Professor of the History of the British Commonwealth, has been appointed a member of the governing body of the School of Oriental and African Studies in succession to the late Professor Eric Thomas Stokes.

The Purcell School

The Purcell School will welcome a new principal, Mr John Bain, in September 1983 and this is, therefore, Mr Richard Taylor's last term. The school will be marking this occasion with two major concerts and will hold its Open Day on the afternoon of Saturday, July 2, on Sunday, July 3, at 2.45 pm, when a concert at the Purcell School.

Royal College of Organists

P. J. Smith has won the John Brook memorial prize in the Royal College of Organists, choir-training examination.

ment is a divine discontent; its function is to bring us to the one, unchanging, and eternal Christ. Secondly, fallen man's capacity for idolatry must be faced. In place of the insecurity of the demands of the Gospel, we create ideologies which will make us feel comfortable.

Sandhurst entry

The following officer cadets in the May entry to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst on the standard British course: Mr C. H. W. Arnold, Mr J. B. Barber, Mr J. B. Barber, Mr J. B. Barber.

Birthdays

TODAY: Miss Francesca Annis, 38; Dr. H. K. L. ... Mr J. B. Barber, 38; Mr J. B. Barber, 38; Mr J. B. Barber, 38.

Awards for British comedy

The BBC and Independent Television yesterday each won an award for comedy at the Golden Rose of Montreux Festival in Switzerland.

New chief constable

Mr Andrew Sloan, aged 52, has been appointed Chief Constable of Bedfordshire. Mr Sloan, presently Deputy Chief Constable of Lincolnshire, led the hunt through three counties for Barry Prodon, the truck killer. He succeeds Mr William Sutcliffe who is moving to Strathclyde.

Supper

Bradford College CCF The centenary of Bradford College Combined Cadet Force was celebrated yesterday. After an inspection by General Sir Peter Leese, the band performed by the RAF Falcons and the Mounted Band of the Royal Artillery, the guests joined CCF officers at a buffet supper.

OBITUARY DR PRIDI PHANOMYONG

Radical figure in Thai politics

Dr Pridi Phanomyong, who died in Paris on May 2 at the age of 82, was Prime Minister of Thailand, for a brief period in 1946, and was for many years one of the most influential figures in the country's politics.

MAJ-GEN D. T. COWAN

Lieutenant-Colonel W. L. Miron writes: Your report (April 25) of the death on April 15 of Major-General D. T. Cowan ("Punch") was his DAAG and later AAQMG from early 1943 until he ceased to command the 17th Indian Division ("The Black Cats") in June 1945.

MR A. F. FOX

Mr Anthony Francis Fox, MBE, managing director for exploration and production at Tricentrol Plc, who died suddenly at his home in Sussex on May 8, was born on July 27, 1920, and was educated at Emanuel School and the Royal School of Mines. He interrupted his industry course in 1942 when he joined the Royal Sussex Regiment, and was commissioned into the Royal Tank Regiment. He attended the Military College of Science in 1942 and was involved in the design and testing of tanks and armoured cars.

Memorial service

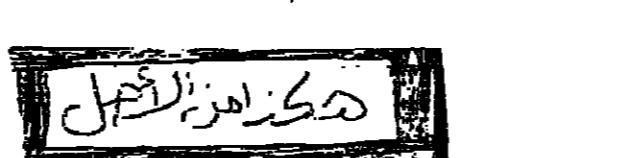
A memorial service for Sir Richard Le Gallais was held at Cuckingham Palace on Saturday, May 7. The Rev Charles A. K. Thomas officiated. The lesson was read by Captain Charles Le Gallais and an address was given by Lieutenant Colonel Martin Scarce. The organist was Mr A. Morrison. Among the relatives and many friends present were Lady Le Gallais, Mrs Charles Le Gallais and Mr William Le Gallais.

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2,3 Travel: From the home of Mickey Mouse to the Tuscan hills; Eating Out and summer Drink

4 Values: Winners of this year's Design Council awards; Shopfront; In the Garden and Collecting

THE TIMES Saturday

5 Basil Boothroyd on Thurberism, plus other paperbacks of the month; Theatre and Galleries

7,8 Films; Music; Opera; Dance; Chess; Bridge; Family Life and the guide to The Week Ahead

14-20 MAY 1983 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Fly fishing, once the sport of the few, has been put within the reach of all by improvements in breeding and the opening up of new waters to the fisherman. Stewart Tendler casts an eye over its charms

Hooked on the fly

I blame George Melly. I have said it before and I will say it again. When pressed to participate in shopping expeditions, wallpapering operations and the other rigours of modern domestic life I demur, pack my fishing rods and blame Mr Melly.

Your bankside companions, you will find, are often friendly and gregarious. There is something satisfyingly esoteric and technical about the arrays of flies and bits of tackle, the discussions about hatching insects and prevailing winds.

Within a few weeks the mayfly will be hatching at a place in the West Country that shall remain secret; and the poor man's name will have to be taken in vain again. Not that I have ever met him, you understand.

Given the effects of such bait it is surprising that only 700,000 anglers have become hooked. But fly fishing may not remain in splendid isolation: improved fish breeding and legislative changes have inspired water authorities to open unused waters for recreational use, and a sport once associated with crusty gentefolk has now become accessible to every pocket.

But, one crucial evening three years ago, I happened to be waiting for the BBC Radio News when the programme schedulers filled in an odd two minutes with a talk by Mr Melly, jazz singer and writer, on his passion for fly fishing.

Indeed, a few days after Mr Melly's talk my own career began, a little more than 10 miles from Bixadilly on a reservoir in the shadow of the Harrod's Depository. Armed with a £9 rod, a dozen highly recommended flies (highly recommended, that is by the man in the shop) and an old shoulder bag plastered with airline stickers I joined the already



The Kennet, near Kirtbury, in Berkshire. Picture by Philip Sawyer

substantial line of anglers ranged along the bank.

There were no kingfishers, only honking Canada geese, and it looked as if a downpour would start at any minute. Of fish there were few.

It was a very forgettable initiation but one which has prefaced other days when the perfect world has seemed very close, at the edge of a meandering river or a rippling lake, balancing rural tranquillity with a fine edge of tension.

Tension? The word must look strangely at odds with the commonplace picture of the patient angler, sitting solidly by the water hour after hour, lost in some apparent half-sleep. But

no angler sleeps. The coarse fisherman always has an eye cocked to his float and the fly fisherman is constantly casting, retrieving his lure and then casting again.

Perhaps he is casting to a trout rising in the centre of a slow-moving stream where the water drifts by like smooth green oil, where tasty insects dance, hover and circle over the surface.

The size of the prey is difficult to judge because of the distortion caused by the water. A trout feeds at a measured pace, choosing from the morsels floating into its vision. As the angler watches, the fish stabs at something on the surface,

turning away with a slither of body and fins, dropping towards the bottom and back to its station.

The angler casts upstream from the fish, wary lest the fish bolts. Sunlight flickers silver on the water through the overhanging trees as the fly lands on the surface and is lost for an instant. Now, caught by the current, the feathery bait starts to float down towards the fish.

The angler crouches low, concentrating as his prey and its prey meet... without resolve. The fish moves up to the fly - then something, a calculation, an instinct, a primeval sixth sense holds the quarry back. The fly drifts on... and the fish

returns to its lair upstream.

Off comes the fly from the line and the angler hurriedly rifles his tackle box. Once again the line loops out beneath the trees dropping a fresh offering.

Riding high on the water it slips steadily towards the fish. This time the trout does not stop, lost in a blur of water which breaks the stream surface and drowns the fly.

The angler has less than a second to decide whether to let his catch move away with the bait before tightening the line, or to "strike" immediately risking that the fish will spit out the fly.

He strikes, lifting the rod high: the line runs taut with the power of the fish which barrels across the stream to the other bank. Nothing in the world now separates man and fish but a slender cord.

Crashing out of the water the trout falls back on its side. The ripples widen as the fish dives deep, running for cover, seeking submerged reeds and tree roots.

The rod is still high, arcing under the pressure as the angler pulls and reels in precious feet of slack line. His net is somewhere along the bank and so he must move cautiously towards it, as the trout twists away yet again.

The desperate fish tries to break the thin nylon linking the fly to the thicker casting line by winding itself through a tangle of tree roots. The angler fights it clear, all the while tightening on the line.

A few yards from the bank the trout is close to the surface. The net slides out beneath it, provoking a final surge from the thrashing victim.

The victorious hunter breathes easily once more. The river smooths itself out and the flies whirl and minut. Time starts to tick again. Was that Mr Melly's kingfisher in the trees?

Still and deep waters

Many local water authorities can supply details of places in their areas where it is possible to fly fish, and each year the two main monthly magazines for the sport, *Trout and Salmon* and *Trout Fisherman*, publish extensive lists of rivers and lakes open to the public.

In general the opportunities for stillwater fishing are much wider than for river fishing, especially in England where much of the water has long been in private hands. Joining a syndicate with exclusive use of a stretch of water such as the Test in Hampshire can run to thousands of pounds for a place on what is regarded as the country's premier dry fly river.

There are also large clubs, open to members for a reasonable annual fee, which offer a choice of good rivers in many parts of the country. One in the south of England offers not only trout fishing but also the chance to fish for salmon at less than £20 per year.

Day tickets are also available on some rivers. On the Test a ticket can run to over £40 but less notable rivers will cost £10 or £12 for a day and the "bag limit" of a brace of fish. In the West Country and Wales, river fishing can be even cheaper and in Scotland and Ireland sometimes little more than £1.

In terms of value the still waters, especially the public ones, offer a greater return. The reservoirs owned by Thames Water, three of which are within an hour's drive of London, offer a six-fish limit for little more than £6 a day. These deep waters have often produced trout weighing well over 10lb.

But they are still small waters when compared to the 3,100 acres of Rutland, the 1,600

acres of Grafham in Cambridgeshire and the 2,546 acres of the new Kielder water in Northumberland. Such vast expanses are best covered by boats, and although a day is still relatively cheap a beginner might be better avoiding such daunting stretches of water.

A good choice could be the smaller public waters or some of the private lakes, often offshoots from fish farms. The prices vary from £5 to £7 for two fish to £10 or more for four but the beginner has a better chance of catching something on a lake of a few acres.

A number of these small private waters have also started to extend their seasons, which previously ran from early April or late March to October. The introduction of hybrid trout has now enabled anglers to fish throughout the winter.

Both private and public waters have adapted their prices to meet the changing needs of fly anglers. Half-day tickets, with accordingly reduced limits, are offered for people who want to fish after work, and a number of fisheries now offer season tickets valid at any time or restricted to certain days. These may prove an economy to someone who fishes a number of times each week and is unlikely to fish elsewhere; many anglers, however, prefer variety.

Whether you are an adventurous fisherman or one who stays with a favourite water certain rules still have to be followed. All anglers are required to have a permit from the local water authority which usually costs less than £5 per year. If a water is for fly fishing only, any attempts to use live bait or anything other than a fly can bring penalties.

How to tackle your equipment on the right lines

Fishing tackle shops are almost as addictive as fly fishing itself, and manufacturers and shopkeepers will seduce you with all sorts of wonderful new gadgets and inventions. But whether you are fly fishing on river or still water, it is still possible to put together the basics for about £50.

The art of fly fishing is to offer a fish an imitation of its natural insect or fish food by casting. For this you need a rod, a reel, a line, some fine nylon, flies and a net.

River and stillwater fishing require different rods and lines because of the differences in technique and conditions. River fishing usually means casting a fly accurately over short distances; with still water the angler has got to position the fly far out on the deep water of a lake or reservoir.

As a general rule rods of 6 to 8 ft are used on rivers and streams and rods of 8, 9 and 10 ft on still water. Some trout rods are 11 ft long but these are best left to the expert.

In recent years the materials used in rods have changed as a result of modern technology. Cane, the traditional material, was replaced by hollow glass fibre but more recently carbon fibre has superseded glass.

The changes have resulted in progressively lighter rods which allow the angler to cast for hours before he becomes tired. Prices have dropped and reservoir rods in carbon fibre are now available for £30 or less. Glass fibre is even cheaper and still has adherents while cane, now extremely expensive, is championed by dry fly purists because its weight gives accurate casting.

The beginner on a reservoir would be well served by a cheap carbon rod. On a river a glass fibre rod would be adequate.

In either type of fly fishing the same reel will suffice, and good, simple reels are available for less than £10. What you put on the reel depends on your rod and your fishing. Rods and lines should complement each other; so a river rod will hold a light line while a reservoir rod will take a heavier line designed for casting over distances.

Manufacturers have an agreed scale. A river rod may be classed at line 4 or 5 while a reservoir rod will be classed at 7 or 8. The line you buy should match the rating of your rod: the rating is usually written on it somewhere near the grip.

Most river fishing is done with a line that floats, but reservoir fishing includes both floating and sinking lines. Prices vary from a few pounds to about £20 for top quality lines but an "economy" line is best for a beginner at £7 or £8.

Flies are attached to the lines by this, often tapered, length of nylon called casts. These can be

bought ready-made or made up from different strengths. Simple plastic connectors are available for the beginner who has yet to master his knots.

Like reels there is nothing special about nets. They can be one-piece or telescopic and vary in price. The choice of flies depends totally on the type of fishing. On reservoirs every type of fly is allowed - from imitations of insects to inventions aimed at provoking the fish's aggressive instincts. Rules on rivers depend on the locality and in some areas only dry, floating flies are allowed at certain times of the season.

Before starting out, buy one of the many simple books on the market and master basic technique. Lessons in casting can be arranged through private teachers or at some lakes and reservoirs. Casting may look simple but a few hours' practice even on the back lawn will save any embarrassment.

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Map showing routes from Dover and Felixstowe to Zeebrugge, with arrows pointing to Germany, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, and France. Includes logo for Townsend Thoresen and the slogan 'We're with you all the way'.

The mouse that spawned a monster industry dedicated to fun has taken a leap into the future. Nicholas Wapshott reports

How Florida plans to keep the world dotty about Disney

The most popular purpose-built tourist attraction in the world lies in a drained swamp in Florida. It is Disney World, every American child's favourite destination and one of the biggest draws for British families visiting the United States. It is a huge permanent playground, a cross between a giant funfair and the ultimate Santa's grotto. Yet this is not just kid's stuff. Twice as many adults as children pass through the turnstiles to witness an elaborate off-shoot of cinema history - all part of a money-making scheme invented by the late Walt Disney 60 years ago.

American children talk of it with awe, as if it were a distant, magical land. Doting parents use it as the ultimate indulgence for their perfect children. They promise them that one day if they are very, very good and eat all their greens and wear their teeth braces, even at night, they will be taken there. It is, for most, a once-in-a-lifetime journey of pilgrimage to a mecca which defies a mouse.

At least, that is how the Disney Corporation would have us see it: the biggest, most elaborate, most imaginative funfair in the world; an experiment in establishing a more perfect community, where no one drops litter and everyone smiles; the brave frontier of high technology, applied to the most innocent, peaceful ends; the ultimate memorial to the genius of Walt Disney, who was more than a mere animator - part-prophet, all-businessman and the founder of a most original dynasty.

Disney remains largely a family company to this day and it is ostensibly for families that Disneyland, in Los Angeles, and Disney World, in Florida, have been built. A Disneyland has recently opened under licence, in Japan. (The elder daughter of Ranan Lurie, the former *Times* cartoonist, works there, as Cinderella.) And the senior executives of Disney are glad that their ventures are usually reported in keeping with their stated aspirations - Disney as child-minders to the nation.

That is only part of the story. In the beginning, Walt Disney joined forces with Ub Iwerks in a commercial art studio in Kansas City. The two of them and Disney's brother, Roy, set off for Hollywood and founded an animation studio, beginning in 1923, with *Alice in Cartoon-*

land. Mortimer Mouse, quickly renamed Mickey, followed in 1927, pictures by Iwerks, voice by Walt Disney. It was their ambition to produce the finest, most perfect animations ever achieved, but perfectionism was expensive.

The financial answer was to keep an iron control over the copyright of the cartoons. Having founded a successful repository of characters - Pluto first appeared in 1930, Donald Duck was invented in 1936, the first full-length feature animation, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, in 1937 - they made sure demand always outstripped supply, presenting then withdrawing each film in turn. Successive generations of children and parents would pay to see pictures whose production costs could not be met by box-office receipts in the short term.

The Disney formula is maintained even today. No full-length animation has yet been sold to television. They are even rationed on to the cinema screens. And when they arrive, they are immensely popular. *Fantasia* ran for months in London last year, more than 40 years after it was first released.

Matched to this created demand for films is a similarly controlled application of the copyright to merchandising. Mickey Mouse watches, T-shirts and the rest have been on sale since the early 1930s.

Disneyland was an attempt to extend this exploitation of copyright to the world of theme parks. The United States is dotted with such elaborate funfair parks, with big dippers and rollercoasters more magnificent and thrilling than anything in Britain. Disneyland was designed to be more than mere funfair. (As is usual in the

Disney mythology, every crucial decision is attributed to Walt, although very often he merely knew a good idea when he heard it and was not proud to take it as his own.)

The original Disneyland was designed to diversify the income of the company while further promoting the Disney copyright characters, for each ride would be based upon one of the key Disney animations. Peter Pan's Flight would take a skim over the London rooftops to Captain Hook's island; in 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, it would be possible to travel in Captain Nemo's Nautilus; the Mad Hatter's Tea Party whirled people around in giant cups.

Disney sank every available dollar in their Hollywood site and gradually the scheme took off. It was highly profitable and, applying the same Disney standards of professionalism and perfection, the rides were incomparable, using the very best in the Disney Studio's special effects techniques, matched to the most ingenious mechanical animation. Soon they realized that the site was not big enough; too many people were spending too much money on the way there.

The solution was simple: find a bigger site. An enormous acreage of unprepossessing swampland was bought near Orlando in Florida, miles from any obvious entertainment attractions. All rides in Disneyland were reproduced in the new Disney World. Hotels were built close to the concentration of attractions known as The Magic Kingdom: a giant A-frame structure, with a monorail running through the main lobby; one built like a Polynesian village; a golf resort and a camping ground.

To arrive there is to experience a skilful exercise in controlled expectation. The car glides along Disney freeways lined by woods. From the car to the Mississippi paddle steamer, which rumbles across the artificial lake in the direction of the tall castellations of what turns out to be Cinderella's Castle. Up from the quay to Main Street USA, a pint-sized amalgam of Victorian, folksy buildings.

In each direction paths lead to the rides. It is fascinating to a 30-year-old. To an eight-year-old it would be mind boggling. Everyone soon establishes a favourite, usually Pirates of the Caribbean, floating past pillaging marauders, or Space Mountain, an ultimate switchback ride whose twists and turns are made all the more terrifying by being in the pitch black. There are racy rides for teenagers; gentle rides for the timorous. Each is performed to a similar



Epcot, Disney's foray into the space age: 250 acres of technological razzmatazz and a "world fair" complete with ye olde pubbe

high standard. Half the pleasure lies in allowing the tricks to succeed; the other half comes in trying to establish how they are contrived.

It comes as little surprise that twice as many adults as children make the journey - the effects and deceptions are designed to fool the most discerning enthusiast. Given a quiet day, an early start and careful timing, the Magic Kingdom need take no longer than a day. However, in high season (mid-summer, Christmas, Easter and public holidays) the queues are wretched and a two-day trip is nearer the mark.

Now the Magic Kingdom has been joined by Epcot in Disney-speak, the Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow - which is dominated by an enormous golf-ball hall and attempts to illustrate the excitement of new technology and scientific experiment. It is more like a conventional trade fair, with pavilions sponsored by different companies. Because Epcot is new, the queues are longer, but only a couple of the rides are worth the wait. For the most part the tricks are familiar and weighed-down by bogus "educational" themes.

Beyond Epcot is another new area, World Showcase, a permanent sham world fair, with pavilions representing, so far, nine nations. Britain is represented, rather lamely, by ye olde pubbe. Mexico has a more elaborate restaurant with glorious special effects (and appalling food). France has its own truncated Eiffel Tower, sat on



England according to Epcot: Royal Doulton and Pringle feature, as does the cuppa

top of a boutique roof. Italy has an abbreviated Doge's Palace. Japan offers a marvellous - and uncannily accurate - garden and a wonderful restaurant.

The relationship between Disney and the countries is a delicate one. For instance, Israel is not represented, nor has South Africa been allowed a space. Disney executives cover their difficulties in elaborate jargon, but the truth is that even Disney's treacherous goodwill cannot suffocate international politics.

This is odd, because Disney has almost banished the American state from their property. Disney World is a benign dictatorship, presided over by a large cast - Disney likes to pretend that the whole thing is theatre - which keeps everyone out of trouble. It must be the only place in the US where it is impossible to be mugged.

This is good for anxious parents, who can let their brats run wild, but more uneasy for a free-thinking guest, who is so encouraged to stay on the

straight and narrow - a friend of mine was reprimanded for venturing off the recommended jogging route - that it can become a little suffocating.

It is a long drive to get off the property and, even then, there is nothing much for miles. Except the competition. Disney is such a pull that other theme park operators have surrounded the site with every sort of World, from Sea World to Rosie O'Grady's genuine honky-tonk revue - a whole street in Orlando made up of strictly

simulated good-time bars. It is more entertaining than the Disney parade each afternoon, which gushes with an overdose of simulated carnival.

So many smiling faces and so many good manners delivered with all the sincerity of a vacuum salesman make one grateful for the surly welcome of the British Rail staff at Gatwick.



Disney World is just 20 minutes drive from Orlando, and over four hours from Miami.

A "world passport" is the ticket to ride at the attractions of Epcot Centre and the Magic Kingdom and a one-day adult entry fee is \$15 (\$3.50 for children 12 to 17-year-olds) plus \$14, and children (three to 11-year-olds) \$12. A three-day adult passport costs \$35, a four-day share, \$45.

Prices of accommodation in the hotels within the 43-square-mile holiday resort complex are from \$65 to \$115 per room, per night. The cost does not include breakfast but up to five people share a room.

For a brochure write to the Outdoor Recreation Division, Walt Disney Productions, 31/32 Soho Square, London W1 (734 8111).

Intasun offer two ways of getting to Disney World. Fly-drive to Miami, for two, will cost from £260 each per week or £403 each for two weeks. They also offer a fly-coach, again Pan-Am to Miami, then Greyhound coach pass, from £294 each for one week or £429 each for two weeks. (818 5724).

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CUNARD PRINCESS

Steaming around the sulphur islands

It was I I am when the overnight ferry from Naples edged up to the jetty of Vulcano island. The scene on shore resembled a half-remembered cowboy film. Spectacular mountains surround a basin, covered in sand and scrub. And the shanty town in the foreground has an outback air, as if the sheriff's posse had just galloped through.

Vulcano is one of the seven Aeolian islands, whose average length is five miles, and which all reveal symptoms of their volcanic origin. The most active of the islands is smoking, unpredictable Stromboli, which vomits flames, ash and lava every 20 minutes.

Most of the volcanoes on the

other islands are extinct, though Etna on nearby Sicily is making headlines because it is not. But the tacky, pale-pink banks of the mountain towering beside the jetty was steaming from its primrose yellow patches.

The shopkeepers were already itching to put up their shutters for the 12-4pm lunch break, as I drifted through the flower-decked street. There's not much to buy here, but I filled my pockets with bits of rock, lumps of volcanic pumice stone, and pieces of the beautiful black volcanic glass called obsidian.

Almost anyone can offer you a room to sleep in, for the only way to get rich here is via the

tourists. Spare rooms, cellars, out-houses, and roof-top sheds were whitewashed and filled with beds for "black money" accommodation.

Even in Roman times the island was renowned for its therapeutic waters. But you'll find no arched baths or pump room on Vulcano, just a hole the size of a football pitch in the yellow rocks, filled with muddy water.

The hot spring that pours into the pond is supposed to cure arthritis and rheumatism, as well as skin diseases. So only a brute would decide the 30 immobile heads, dotted about the hot pool, whose looks of savage concentration suggest that they mean to leave behind the pains they have arrived with.

When you're tired of the hot water treatment, you scrape up handfuls of sulphurous mud from the pool bottom, and smear yourself all over with it. Then you sit in a small cave, and hot air from the rock face dries the mud. That is supposed to draw out the pain in the joints, as well as the acne and pimples. You then wash off in the sea, which turns out to be bubbling and gurgling away, as gas escapes from smoke holes, or fumaroles, in the sea bed.

Feeling clean and relaxed, I was lying on the beach, when a sudden hissing jerked me upright. Close beside my right foot a plume of smoke burst out of the sand and rose nonchalantly into the air.

The castle rock of Lipari, the only real town and heart of the islands, is 10 minutes by hydrofoil from Vulcano, with its twisting streets and tortoise-sized cobblestones, the washing flapping overhead. It was rich and famous in Neolithic times.

A daily hydrofoil (about £30 return) connects the islands with Naples and Milazzo in the summer. It takes about half an hour from Milazzo, and longer from Naples.

Ann Huxley

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TRAVEL/2

U.K. HOLIDAYS

DRINK

First swallow for an English summer

Quite when an English summer begins is probably a mystery to us all, but from my window the verdant view tells me the chestnut trees are out, the may and cherry trees are in full bloom and everyone's garden furniture has been placed firmly and determinedly outside...

Champagne, of course, seems the ideal wine for all these occasions and while several supermarket champagnes make delicious low-cost drinking, their labels may not be sufficiently impressive for events such as these...

Another good gulping rose that is particularly fruity and refreshing is Michel Pétresse's VDOS Gris de Gris Corbières rosé (Haynes, Hanson & Clarke, £2.86). But watch out if colour is a vital consideration for the somewhat offputting grey-orange hue of this Gris de Gris may not be exactly what you had in mind...

Fresh asparagus or asparagus vinaigrette crops up regularly at summer parties and picnics and its strong "green" flavour can easily overpower most white summer wines. But earlier this year I wrote about a classic, gussy, golden, oak-aged Chardonnay from Spain of all places, that was served to me recently with asparagus feuilleté and rich mousseline sauce and it coped beautifully...

As the British Tourist Board calls for more restaurants to adopt French-style "prix fixe" menus, we respond by looking at two in London already operating this system

TOURMENT D'AMOUR, 19 New Row, London WC2 (043 5245) Mon-Sat noon-2pm (last orders) and 7-11.30pm, Sat 8-11.30pm

THE RESTAURANT, Dolphin Square, Grosvenor Street, London SW1 (828 3207) Mon-Fri noon-2.30pm and 7-11.30pm; Sat 7-11.30pm; Sun noon-2.30pm

COFFEE, drinks and an optional service charge extra, and will probably add a minimum of £4-£5 per person to the bill. Even so, the arrangement represents good value, since the quality of the cooking is high and the range of choice generous.

Among the main courses, the entrecôte aux échalotes was cooked precisely to order, the carré d'agneau arrived with a delicious and lively reduction sauce. Other dishes included rognons de veau à la moutarde de Azeau and a filet of halibut (£3 supplement). Desserts have lightness (melon sorbet) and richness (chocolate and Grand Marnier mousse) and there are also a couple of home-baked pastries with fruit. House wine is £5.25 a bottle and there are several useful half-bottle available (for example Chateau Lassalle '76, £4.25).

The assiduous service includes patient explanation of Stan Hey

The Victoria Hotel AA ***** RAC SIDMOUTH, DEVON. ENJOY FOUR STAR LUXURY IN THE FLORAL TOWN OF EUROPE. Just a short level walk from Sidmouth's regency town centre rests one of England's finest hotels...

The Staunton Sands Hotel SPECTACULAR SETTING AA ***** RAC. Just imagine slipping back onto the sea terrace before dinner, watching the golden sunset over the sea...

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LANCASTER GATE HOTEL, W. 11. 27-29, Lancaster Gate, W. 11. Tel: 01-235 1111.

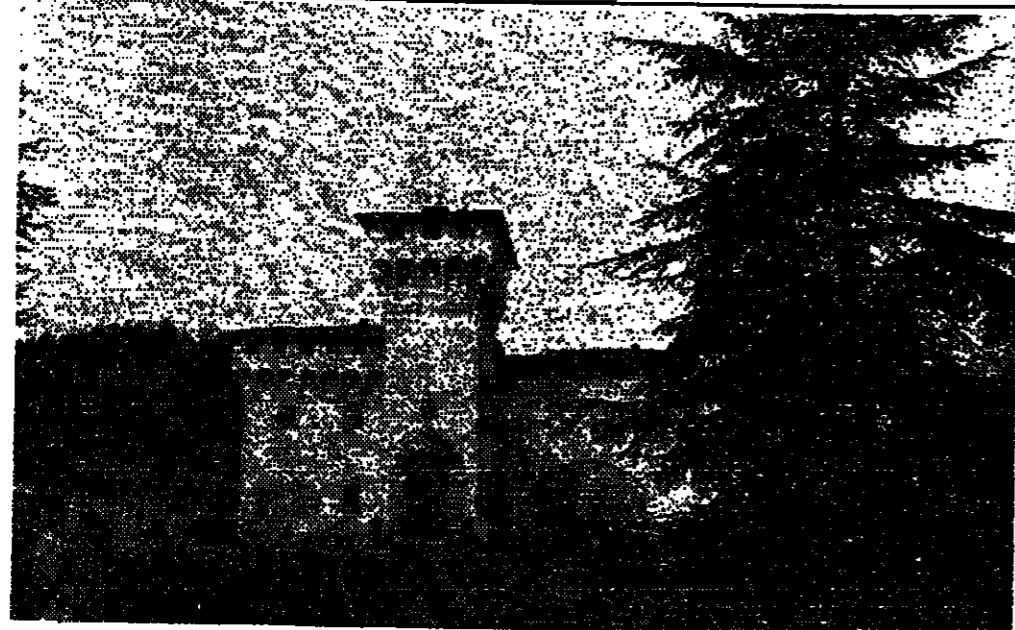
Travel notes The region has no grand hotels but many that are cheap and clean. The most expensive for miles around are the Europa (no restaurant) and the Graveney at Arrezzo, £11-£12.50 a night, single room with bath.

FIRST EUROPE! NOW AMERICA Spring Summer term return prices begin. San Francisco £325, Los Angeles £393, New York £259, Dallas £420, Miami £291, Tampa £281, Denver £349, Atlanta £372.

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Rural hideaway: Sixteenth-century fortified farmhouse in the Arno valley

Across the warm hills to quiet Tuscan shrines

Arezzo is superficially an unremarkable town: intensely provincial, not a decent hotel in the place. Obviously we shall case this modest joint in an hour and move on to Florence or Rome as the case may be. But the alleys disclose curious trades. The squares hint at paganism, if all those flag sockets in the walls are any guide.

The truth is that Arezzo is a cultural treasury, a metropolis of the Renaissance spirit. A bicycle ride or a few hours' break walking will take you to satellite villages which boast the birth-places of among others, Michelangelo, Paolo Uccello, Masaccio (a nickname meaning "bad Tom"), Luca Signorelli and Piero della Francesca. You can add the intimate associations of Dante, da Vinci (he mapped the district and the map is in Windsor Castle library), the della Robbias and St Francis of Assisi.

It seems a fair handful of talents for one rustic province. The old masters are represented in parish churches, village halls and cemetery chapels, their works protected not so much by the tatty rope in front of them as by the jealous regard of their communities. Both de Gaulle and Jacqueline Kennedy offered immense sums for a loan of Piero's Madonna del Parto, the Pregnant Virgin of Mantechi, but the village women lay down in front of it and would not let it go. Why should they? It is their totem of fecundity.

From platform five of Arezzo railway station, on the main Florence-Rome line, the so-called Pullman, the three-coach narrow-gauge diesel train, departs five times a day for an easy-paced 30-mile run to Siena. Just outside Arezzo it clanks over a river bridge. Here the infant Arno flows south, makes a U-turn and heads north-west for Florence - a topographical quirk which gave rise to the medieval jibe that the river of Tuscany took flight at Arezzo's ugliness. The main line goes downstream to Florence

and you are launched on a lonely trek, 25 miles along the crest of purple Apennines. Solitude and wide panoramas are yours all the way to Arezzo. The only milestones on the route are the Cross of Pratomagno, a gaunt rusty pylon at the highest point, and nearby it, a monument to Bert Hinkler, the Australian aviator whose single-engine Puss Moth crashed in the snows in January 1933 on the first leg of his Croydon-Sydney record attempt. Hinkler was found by shepherds four months later, some distance from the wreckage, partly eaten by foxes.

Soon this landscape must change. Contractors' trucks for hotels and holiday villages are beginning to carve ruts in the "Great Meadow", although the lower slopes remain relatively intact. You can walk or drive at this lower level and meet more people, especially on Sundays - mushroom gatherers, rabbit fanciers, picnickers. The slopes are everything a northern European imagines rural life to be. Old farms ramble, medieval towers crumble, fruit

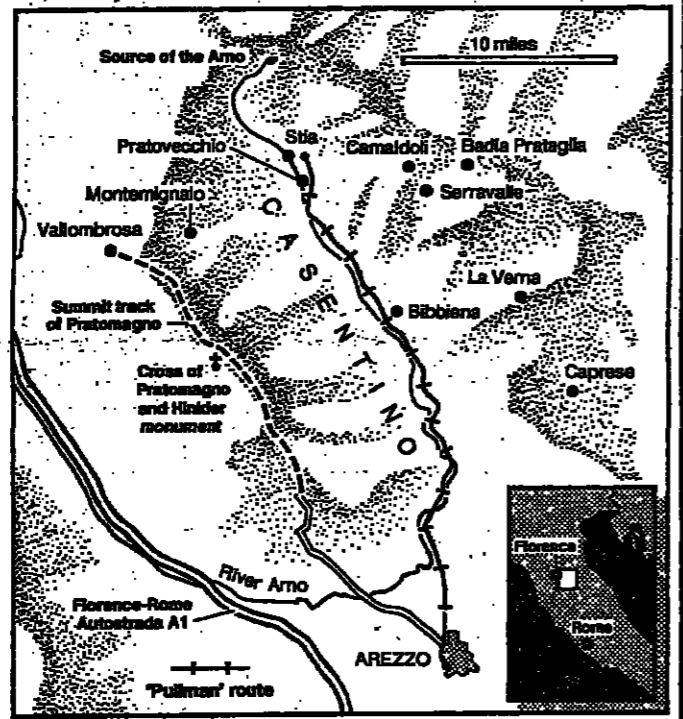
trees and vines flourish, but the lanes, cart-carts creak along the banks, the forest fleeces shoulders its way to the heights and you find a jigsaw of pantiled roofs in every hollow. The village and the visitors, so far, don't infringe the Pratomagno's tranquillity. They emphasize it.

Leslie Gardiner On your left, craning your neck out of the window when the Pullman stops for breath at impenetrable wayside halts, you can plot an excursion over the Pratomagno, the "Great Meadow" of Tuscany. It is a chain of upland pastures spread along round-topped, tousled hills. You could approach at the northern end from Vallombrosa (where Milton played the organ) or from Pratovecchio (where I play dumb and ask: "Who was born here?") a fairly safe question hereabouts. "Paolo Uccello", says the shepherd's wife, preening herself like "the Bird" (uccello) himself. "Who was he?" - she looks agast and walks off and later I see her talking indignantly to a neighbour and pointing at me.

Drive to the Scocchia refuge, five tortuous miles above Vallombrosa or Montemignao, and you are launched on a lonely trek, 25 miles along the crest of purple Apennines. Solitude and wide panoramas are yours all the way to Arezzo.

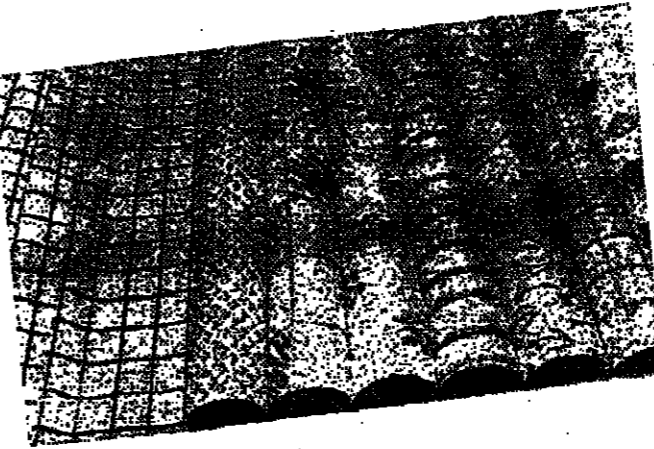
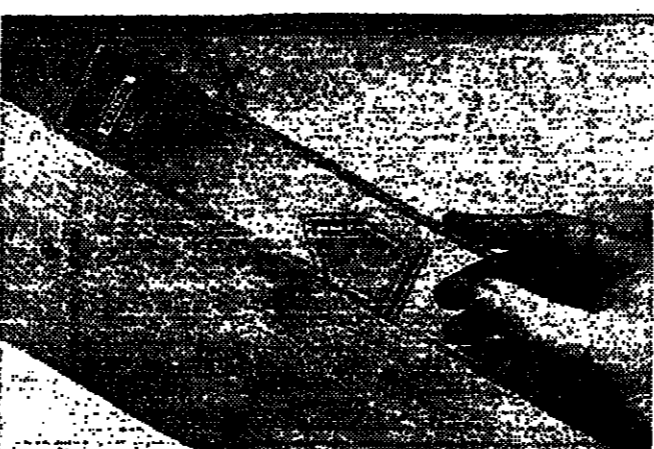
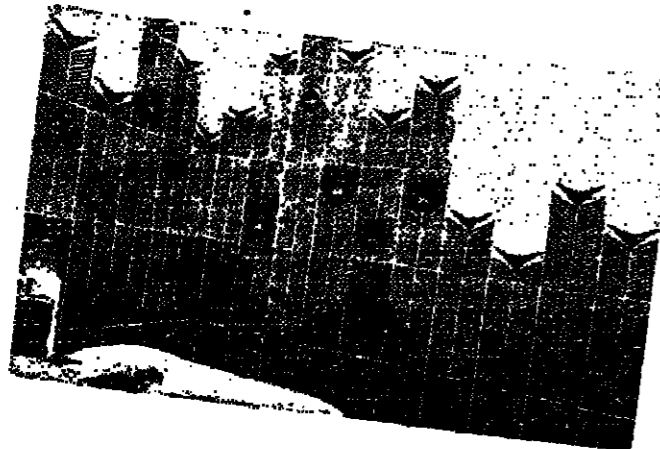


Pillars of the church: Twelfth-century Romanesque beauty of Santa Maria della Pieve



Map of the Arno valley region, showing the river Arno, various towns, and the Pullman route.

VALUES on the Design Council awards 1983



Seal of approval, left to right: Midsummer hand-decorated tiles, about £40 a sq yd, stockists and other designs from Sally Anderson Ceramics, Pardon Mill, Harlow, Essex (0279 20982); Dandy Clip, 99p, from Payless DIY stores (59 branches); Multiview spirit level, £2.99, Selfridges; New Wave Wallpapers, £3.55 a roll (co-ordinating fabrics £5.25 a metre), John Lewis or other stockists from House of Mayfair, Cranlington, Northumberland (0670 736113)

Should Princess Diana be a champion of design?

A £1.4m helicopter and a 99p plastic clip this week carried off the major design prizes of the year. From the 27 winners of the 1983 Design Council awards, the Duke of Edinburgh chose these two for his own designer's prize - £500 each to commission an object to commemorate the occasion.

There could be no doubt that the royal seal of approval had been based on personal experience of the products. Prince Philip flew the Westland 30 and from the award ceremony in Cardiff and told guests that he had already found a use for the Dandy Clip - an adjustable clamp, which can be used for fastening almost anything to anything - "of all unlikely places on my carriage" and that Lord Snowdon had used it on his camera.

Nevertheless there was a feeling among some companies that the consumer and industrial categories should be separated. If the Council did create a separate consumer category the perfect patron would surely be the Princess of Wales.

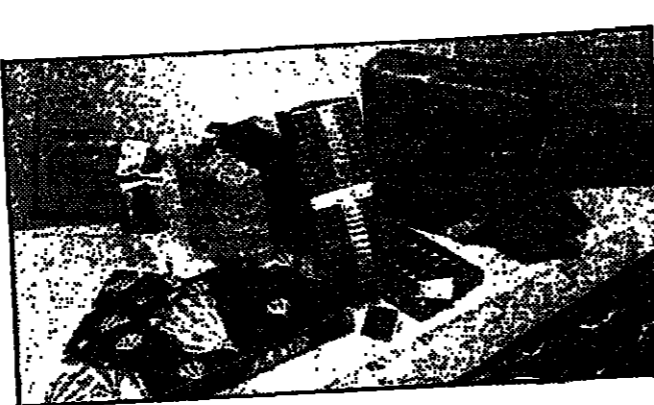
Could she not be asked if she would be willing to do for British consumer products what the Duke of Edinburgh has done for industry, and what that has already done, by simply being herself, for British fashion?

There were nine awards in the consumer sections, showing a remarkable range of function and price. Yuki's superb luggage designs in top quality soft leather for Papworth (first reported on this page in March, 1981) should go a long way towards convincing designers that the British leather trade, once so famous, is not actually dead from the soles up; stockists include Harrods, Harvey Nichols in London, Finnigans, Wilmslow, Watson Prickard, Liverpool, Jollys, Bath.

arranged in so many permutations and colours that customers can achieve an individual effect without the expense of commissioning a one-off mural. In the middle price range are House of Mayfair's New Wave range of wallpapers and co-ordinating fabrics - young, fresh and reasonably priced - wrapping paper and cards by Millimetre, Mindbender puzzles by Loncraine Broxton and in the every-house-should-have-one class the Multiview spirit level, which shows levels at several different angles, by Rabone Chesterman. For photographers there is the Quadmatic pack for studio flash by Bowens and for fishermen the Dragonfly 60 fly fishing reel.

Having served on one of the award committees this year, I can vouch for the thoroughness of the judging procedure, the testing, the investigation and the insistence on expert technical reports on the items submitted. The one aspect of the selection procedure which worried my fellow judges was how we could be sure that we had really been presented with the best that British industry could produce - and if not, why not?

To discover how industry itself viewed the awards, I spoke to some of last year's winners and the feeling that came across was that yes, the awards were good for prestige; no, they couldn't actually attribute extra sales to them; yes, they were



Wrapping paper and cards by Millimetre, stocked by Paperebase, Tottenham Court Road, London W1; Scribbler, 170 King's Road, SW3 and 29 James Street, WC2; Birmingham ArtsShop, City Arcade, Birmingham; Artworks, 6 Upper Maddin Street, Bristol

highly regarded abroad; no, British people who weren't in the design field didn't seem to know what they meant. And, a most important point, both industrialists and consumer manufacturers thought they would benefit from completely separate award schemes, each felt swamped by the other.

Rediffusion Simulation, whose team won the top Duke of Edinburgh's prize in 1982 for its flight simulator, found that their award increased their clients' confidence in the company - a vital ingredient when you are dealing in complex machinery costing £5m which is the hub of a pilot training programme.

"We had a lot of good feedback from Boeing in Seattle and from TWA," says John Yeomans, managing director of RSL and a member of the south-east regional council of the CBI. "We shall continue to capitalize on the award by using it in our brochures, but then as a company with an export market of 85 per cent of our turnover we have to have our fingers on the design pulse."

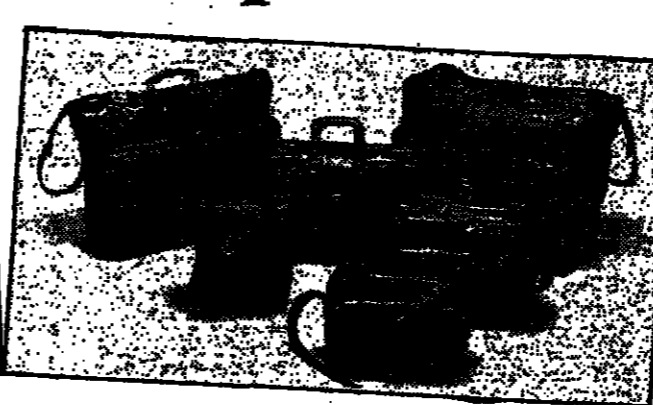


The Yuki collection in red, green or black for Papworth: back row two-suit carrier £170, business case/overnight bag £154, two-suit carrier/suitcase £235; front row small shoulder bag £58, zipper-shoulder bag £42, night bag £78

spend time and effort on anything but the basic business of survival in difficult economic times is that the effects of the design awards are difficult to quantify. For Dunlop the award meant prestige and a more ready acceptance by the public of a revolutionary new golf ball covering; for Ford it helped toward the "general background of recommendation which is part of the whole image building process". Neither could actually point to booming sales as a direct result of the awards, which is the only statistic that matters to disbelievers.

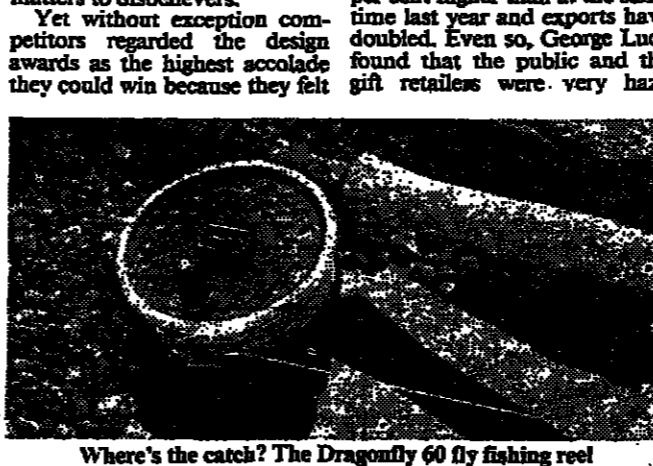
Yet without exception competitors regarded the design awards as the highest accolade they could win because they felt they were being judged by their peers. They all admired the thoroughness of the judging panels, the high standards required and the need to make detailed presentations before technical experts.

For the smaller companies producing consumer products the effects were more marked. For George Luck Puzzles it was the difference between surviving and not during a very difficult trading year; for although the results were not immediate sales began to pick up at Christmas and are now 25 per cent higher than at the same time last year and exports have doubled. Even so, George Luck found that the public and the gift retailers were very hazy



Where's the catch? The Dragonfly 60 fly fishing reel

"I have a high regard for the people who run the awards scheme, but the emphasis in the public's mind is too much on consumer products. If industrial awards were separated from consumer ones the Council could do a lot more to appeal to industrialists - particularly to companies that are not big enough to have large public relations departments which bring the directors' attention to the advantages an award can bring."



Top helicopter: the Westland 30, flown by Prince Philip

SHOPFRONT

Postscript to the Designs awards - those manufacturers who still think design is irrelevant should listen to Peter Gorb's views on the subject at a two-day conference called Coming Home to Design, in London next month. Peter Gorb, one of the main speakers, is senior fellow in design management at the London Business School. He believes that the easiest way to turn businessmen off the idea of good design is to suggest that it is to do only with taste and creativity. He will be putting this point to delegates representing industry, retailing and design on June 16 and 17 at the British Academy Conference Centre, 195 Piccadilly, London W1.

Among other speakers will be Terence Conran; design consultant Dinah Casson; Michael Webber, managing director of Pifco; and Robert Heller, editor-in-chief of Management Today. For details of the programme and conference fees write to Gerald Oliver & Partners, 32 Neal Street, London WC2 (240 3353).

For pressing engagements on holiday or on business travel a new, neat iron by Pifco. A scaled-down version of a full-sized iron, it has dual voltage, thermostatic control, a non-stick coated soleplate. It costs £72. Selfridges will have it next month, or Pifco's Retail Data Bank (061-581 5321) will give names of local stockists.

Stacks of storage are needed for children's toys - and the easier to clean, the better. These inexpensive and sturdy plastic boxes come in red, beige and yellow. Lids are available in beige only. Customers are optional. The large size box (18 1/2" x 12 1/2" x 9 1/2") costs £3.85, medium (18 1/2" x 13 1/2" x 9 1/2") is £3.45, lid £1.85 and set of caps £1.75. From John Lewis, Oxford Street, London W1, and branches in Brent Cross, and Milton Keynes. Also at Peter Jones, London SW1.

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IN THE GARDEN

Strike silver with clean air and a light spot

Colour in the garden does not have to come from flowers. Most gardeners are aware of the possibilities of foliage colour but more use could be made of the silver-foliaged plants.

These plants owe their silver colour to small white hairs covering the surface of the leaf. Silver-foliaged plants are nearly always found in dry parts of the world. In consequence, they are ideal for garden situations where they have light but where moisture may not be easy to come by. The essentials are

well-drained soil and good light; shady conditions are no good for these plants. If grown in the shade or in poor light, they may remain a dirty colour, neither green nor grey. If exposed to the dry conditions they have become adapted to, they develop a strong grey or silver.

Town or city gardens are not ideal sites. Hairy-leaved plants do not like to have their hairs clogged up with pollution and will show this in their growth. Plants which retain their leaves throughout the year are harder to accommodate than those which either shed their leaves or die back to a perennial root stock. Selection of site is therefore very important.

It is well worth attempting to change the conditions of the selected site by artificial means, removing shade if this is possible, and ensuring that plants will not have their toes in water. Many plants will grow very well in ground with a high humus content but which allows surplus moisture to drain away quickly. South to south-west slopes exposed to the full blast of the sun are usually the best positions.

drying winds is not to be encouraged and some protection from the north and east is desirable.

Preparation must be thorough. Remember the need to keep the roots out of wet soil; the neck of the plant should also be kept dry; they may accept a well-drained heavy soil. Consider the use of grit or sand at soil level as well as in the prepared hole. There are always exceptions to the rule, but the best time to plant most silver or grey plants is about now, from late April to mid-May.

There is a wealth of silver and grey plants to consider for your garden, some with flowers as well as foliage to commend them. Many are well known, but should not be rejected on this account.

Senecio laxifolius is a shrub with a strong silver foliage, and yellow flowers almost throughout the summer. It spreads rather than growing upwards, reaching a height no more than about 4ft. It is hardy almost everywhere. Santolina chamaecyparissus has scented foliage which is more grey than silver; yellow flowers appear in the

summer which have no great value and are best pruned away.

One plant I have a lot of time for is Helichrysum petiolatum, although it is suspect in a cold winter. Grown as a dot plant to keep the roots out of wet soil, its heart-shaped leaves and climbing or trailing habit make it very versatile and it is good in boxes or hanging baskets. Eucalyptus gunnii is most attractive, with its juvenile foliage. As the plant grows, the lovely rounded leaves give way to less attractive pointed ones.

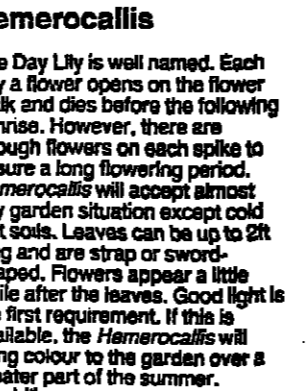
Veronica olympicum has rich silver foliage and needs to be grown as a biennial. Yellow flowers on a spike 6ft high appear in the second year. Convolvulus cneorum, about 18in high and a sub shrub, is difficult to grow. But its silver leaves and white flowers in the summer make it a must.

Foliages of silver and grey-foliaged plants vary, as do sizes, but £1 for herbaceous plants and £4 for shrubs is a good guide. A specialist is Ramparts Nurseries, Bakers Lane, Braintree, Colchester, Essex.

Ashley Stephenson



Senecio laxifolius



Azara microphylla

well; it makes a good wall plant as well as a good specimen in the garden. Like so many plants which are not fully hardy it should be planted in well-drained soil. An open position is preferred but it will succeed in partial shade. Dense shade is of little use as the tree rarely attains its full shape and beauty in these conditions.

There is a variegated form, a fine small tree, whose creamy white edging to the leaves makes it a must for the gardener who wants something different. Once planted it requires little or no attention, needs no pruning and is usually free from pests and diseases.

The price depends on availability but small plants are available from Noicuts of Woodbridge at £5 each.

Hemerocallis

The Day Lily is well named. Each day a flower opens on the flower stalk and dies before the following sunrise. However, there are enough flowers on each spike to ensure a long flowering period.

Hemerocallis will accept almost any garden situation except cold wet soils. Leaves can be up to 2ft long and are strap or sword-shaped. Flowers appear a little while after the leaves. Good light is the first requirement. If this is available, the Hemerocallis will bring colour to the garden over a greater part of the summer. Day Lilies are so accommodating they can be, and regularly are, moved throughout the summer with

COLLECTING

June antiques fairs promise unrivalled buying season

Forewarned is forearmed, and any collector worth his or her salt will know that London is the place to be in June this year. Despite last year's gloomy predictions about the fortunes of the antiques trade, there seems little doubt that June's events - the Grosvenor House Antiques Fair, the Fine Art and Antiques Fair at Olympia, the International Ceramics Fair at the Dorchester, and the 25th Antiquarian Book Fair - will be successful enough to establish an annual international "season" for collectors.

Perhaps the most interesting of these events is the Dorchester Ceramics Fair and Seminar, which was held for the first time last year and was the brain-child of dealers Len and Yvonne Adams and Brian and Anna Haughton. The 1982 fair was certainly an impressive show and was visited by 6,000 people. They found a compact but gloriously varied display of porcelain, pottery, glass and enamels which represented the best international dealers' best stock. In retrospect, it seems incredible that no one had thought of organizing such a specialist fair before, but perhaps the ceramics fair has set a useful precedent, for the Dorchester followed it up last autumn with an equally successful and even more absorbing arms and armour fair.

The ceramics fair will be at the Dorchester from June 10 to 13 and has gained the additional drawing-power of the Cinzano glass collection as a loan exhibit. This consists of 140 drinking vessels, from Roman and Islamic pieces to Venetian, German and English enamelled Beilby glass, all bought since 1971.

There has been some occasionally unidentified wrangling over who holds the title of successor to the Grosvenor Antiques Fair which was abandoned after union picketing in 1978. The former organizers amalgamated with the Burlington Fine Arts Fair and will again be holding a fair at the Royal Academy in October. But meanwhile the idea of an antiques fair at Grosvenor House has been revived and has received the full and enthusiastic backing of the British Antique Dealers Association. The fair runs from June 9 to 18.

Some assiduous buying has been going on in London and provincial salerooms - on the



Standing tall: Queen Anne bureau bookcase c1710, Hallidays at Olympia

part of the 80 or so British dealers who will be taking part, and no doubt some remarkable treasures are waiting in the wings for the big day: the organizers estimate that some £60m worth of goods will be on display, with everything from chandeliers to icons, and from scientific instruments to neoclassic.

However, the ordinary collector might find that there is a greater range of objects suited to his pocket at the Olympia fair (June 3 to 11), especially in the silver section. Olympia is traditionally the most successful trading fair, and also the largest, with 200 dealers exhibiting. It also has a later deadline for objects, making it unquestionably the place for collectors of Art Nouveau or Art Deco.

Olympia should look impressive this year as eight backdrops from the V&A's Theatre Museum collection, by artists such as Picasso, Delaunay, Gontcharova and Bakst,

will be suspended from the roof of the hall. This may well be the public's only chance to see the works, as they are too large to be shown in the Theatre Museum's planned new home in Covent Garden.

In its 25 years of existence, the Antiquarian Book Fair has expanded from 28 to more than 100 stands, and this year will house some 25,000 rare books, manuscripts, autograph letters, musical scores, prints and atlases.

Over the years, such gems as an original score by Brahms and a first edition of Mrs Beaton's Book of Household Management have been discovered there. The fair will be at the Europa Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London W1, from June 14 to 16.

Should collectors find they still have time on their hands after attending all these events and some of the impressive lectures by international scholars at the Dorchester Ceramics Seminar, they might like to sign up for the International Conference on Oriental Carpets at the Azara Centre from June 9 to 12. The British, American and National Gallery and many London carpet dealers are holding exhibitions to coincide with the conference. (Full details appeared in the Saturday section on April 23.)

With all this activity in London in June, one wonders whether dealers in other countries will be able to find any stock to rival the millions of pounds' worth which will be crammed into the city during these crucial days.

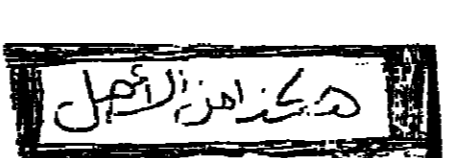
Certainly the British trade are hoping that their international competitors will find themselves pretty short on customers.

Isabelle Ancombe

STOP-FLOP LINK STAKES advertisement with image of stakes and contact information for Westray.

PREMIUM READER OFFER! WINDOW TOMATO NURSERY advertisement featuring Azara microphylla and Hemerocallis.

SUMMER FUN CROQUET SETS advertisement for a £9.95 set.



REVIEW Paperbacks of the month

Gnawing the funny-bone of our fears and foibles

"Dear Thurbs", wrote John O'Hara (a few of the letters are to, rather than from), "What does a thurber do? What is thurbing?"

That I cannot answer. But I write in the grip of the thurbers, and it is a troublesome complaint. It gets you up at three in the morning in a confused and insecure condition induced by over-exposure to the sage of Columbus, Ohio: his Life and Times, his Credits and Carries, the Owl in his Attic, the Seal in his Bedroom, and the rest of his assaults on the mind which make up these (est.) 778,000 words. That doesn't count the letters, or such picture captions as "Touché" or "What have you done with Dr Millrose?"

"Touché", the artist handsomely admits, was someone else's idea. I did not know that. He claims that the creature assumed to have eaten the hapless Millrose was a hippopotamus, and rebukes *The New Yorker*, always obsessive over filing, for putting the drawing on record as "Woman with strange animal", though most will go along with the filigree. Stranger animals, given names, are bred from the inexhaustible invention in his "A New Natural History". My favourite are the plectanid and unlighted Troths, small and faintly beaklike, looking snug and wistful respectively, but it is hard to choose.

And O'Hara's questions still hang in the air.

Having somehow missed, or perhaps forgotten over the decades, those acclaimed Thurber classics, *The Night the Bed Fell*, *The Night the Ghost Got In*, *I Now Wonder*, deeply confident, how they came to seize discerning members of the

Vintage Thurber, Vols I and II, edited by Helen Thurber (Penguin, each £4.95)

Selected Letters of James Thurber, edited by Helen Thurber and Edward Weeks (Penguin, £2.95)

laughing public. Not that they are not funny, but the fun is physical, almost knockabout. True thurbering is more cerebral, the wry comedy of social observation through a uniquely distorting lens, stripping us naked in our common faults and foibles.

It may be that readers, so often Thurber characters in their fears and vanities, bounciness and obtuseness, needed to be led from the conventionally comic into more rarefied and delicate fields; and all unaware that they were Thurber's own people. Strange. Analogous, almost, to the puzzle about what Lancashire audiences find funny in Lancashire comedians. As it happened, I had these books in the house when a visiting couple, having unconsciously talked Thurber dialogue and struck Thurber attitudes all evening, noticed the master's works on the way out and paused to praise him. The husband went quite overboard about *Everything is True*, the piece demolishing card-table bones, and that after boring on for half an hour about recollected bridge-hands. We are all vulnerable to Thurber, but a lot of us do not know it. To claim that some of us do is tempting, but would be dangerously hubristic. We could have missed something.

How true is the autobiographical stuff? This could be asked of anybody's. Few tell

all. Either memory is unreliable or selection prudent. With Thurber, the suspicion is that he tells more than all, carried out of fact by the habit of fiction. In *Draft Board Nights* we can believe that after frequent summonses before the board for medical tests (though his vanishing eyesight had made these abortive from the first), he got to be around often enough to be taken for one of the doctors: but the acceptance quivers when he assumes the role, passing or rejecting fellow candidates in the chair-and-tung section. Still, it is encouraging to see even so tacit and disciplined a writer losing occasional control.

On the other hand, his straight reporting - and it is easy to forget how much he did of that; for instance, on the Loch Ness monster, and the Paris scene just after the first war - exudes truthfulness and credibility, let alone representing models of that kind of writing.

The writing is of all kinds. Laughter prevails, but in, say, *Evening at Seven or One is a Wanderer*, the bleak desolation of the human condition chills the blood. The letters, though not meant for print, depart little in style and mood from the published works, but cast on them some revealing sidelights, particularly the trials and turmoils attending his "Life" of *New Yorker* editor and enigma, Harold Ross. Most moving are the series to his ophthalmologist, Gordon Bruce. Their courage and invincible humour, in a man going irrevocably blind and knowing it, tell more of the inner Thurber than perhaps anything else here.

Basil Boothroyd



Harold and Vita at Sissinghurst in Kent

Blushing revelations illuminate an elite

George V laughed aloud over it; Edmund Wilson thought it his best book, but Harold Nicolson, who had dashed off *Some People* at speed to amuse himself, was later embarrassed that he had ever put his indiscreet pen to paper. If *Some People* was, perhaps unfairly, to become Nicolson's trademark, it provided one of the most entertaining insights into the intellectual and social elite of the early twentieth century - as well as an intriguing portrait of the author.

In various locations, from Oxford to the embassies of Madrid and Constantinople, Nicolson creates nine half-fictional types who possess characteristics which once attracted him but which he now finds stogy. In addition to the celebrated Arkelat, Lord Curzon's alcoholic valet, they range from the public school hero who ends up as a Lloyd's underwriter to the languid aesthete whose poetry becomes as "harmless" as his behaviour. In gently dissecting their idiosyncrasies, Nicolson exposes his own, but he is a connoisseur of such style and sympathy that, although he appears to see these characters in half, he leaves them at the end intact and beaming.

His wife also gained fame from a diversion, written for fun and money, of which she was later ashamed. *The Edwardians*, Vita Sackville-West's most popular success, is in contrast to *Some People* a coy contrived novel as artificial as the society it reflects. Her sly grip on its characters, who seem as if brushed off the

Some People by Harold Nicolson (Oxford Paperbacks, £2.50) *The Edwardians* by Vita Sackville-West (Virago, £2.50) *Sissinghurst: The Making of a Garden* by Anne Scott-James (Michael Joseph, £5.95)

same stencil, may be due to her ambivalence towards them. An ambivalence she invests in the "ridiculously handsome" and moody young Sebastian.

The heir to a vast estate - a thinly disguised Knole - Sebastian has commendable reservations about his mother's set, a gaggle of vacuous duchesses with silvery laughs and hair like yellow sponges. He also holds an understandable affection for his inheritance. Rejecting the advice of a polar explorer to leave it for a three-year journey, he falls in with a married Lady ("the most beautiful woman in London"). After much scandal and a modicum of self-discovery, he does finally decide to travel.

The Edwardians was published in 1930, the year Harold abandoned the Foreign Office and decided with Vita to buy Sissinghurst. That she was a better "plum" than novelist is borne out in Anne Scott-James's engaging history of the garden. The author takes one down its straight paths, designed by Harold, and assays one with "shards of scoria from jumbles of roses." The essence of the Sissinghurst style is "profusion". Miss Scott-James argues. A pity she too is often so susceptible to it.

Nicholas Shakespeare

How brave new worlds poured from the pulp-writers' pens

"When I first encountered science fiction," Pohl writes in *The Way the Future Was*, "Herbert Hoover was President of the United States, a plump, perplexed man who never quite figured out what had gone wrong..."

Pohl points out two major effects of the Depression on the infant science fiction. The first was purely economic: the growth of the pulp magazines, which were cheap and could be read almost endlessly. The second was the climate of opinion it generated, especially the anti-establishment tone Pohl sees in science fiction then and subsequently. "When you invent a new civilized planet, you have to invent a new society to inhabit it; when you invent a new society, you make a political statement about the one you live in..." With or without intent, the science fiction writers were preaching.

By the age of 19, Pohl was a pulp editor, and from this position of eminence, and in a later incarnation as a literary agent, he was able to chronicle much of this "small and incestuous world", as well as ensure acquaintance with the luminaries of the genre.

What is strange, however, is that apart from his observations on the Depression, Pohl is curiously reticent concerning his feelings about science fiction. At the end of his book, he states his love for the genre without saying what exactly it is about science fiction that excites him. Another regrettable omission is an index.

Echoes of Pohl's autobiography give an interesting resonance to *Preferred Risk* by Pohl and Lester del Rey, now in its first British paperback edition.

The Way the Future Was by Frederik Pohl (Granada, £2.50). *Preferred Risk*, by Frederik Pohl and Lester del Rey (writing as Edson McCann) (Methuen, £1.75). *The Trouble Twisters* by Poul Anderson (Granada, £1.25). *Split Infinity* by Piers Anthony (Granada, £1.55). *The Nomborn King* by Julian May (Pan, £1.85). *The Danvers at the End Of Time* by Michael Moorcock (Granada, £2.50).

The collaboration arose out of the "small incestuous world" of the Pohl and del Rey came together for a weekend and spent the next 17 years as neighbours; the novel was written in between watching the televised broadcasts of the McCarthy hearings, and is shot through with a tone of anti-authoritarianism blending with millenarian concerns for society.

In *Preferred Risk* the omnipotent Company has ended war through global insurance. Even death may be cheated by "suspension" in the Company's vaults. Why then is there insurance? The collaboration is not without its weaknesses (spot a particularly glaring contradiction of plot on pages 85 and 163), notably an often irritating heavy-handedness. But the narrative has sustained pace and a capacity to provoke, not always intentionally.

The Trouble Twisters, by Poul Anderson, newly reprinted tales from the early sixties, follows the scrapes of youthful merchant adventurer David Falkayn, "sharpest young trader in the Polesotechnic League and susceptible only to the lute curves of unwary girls".

At times ludicrously condescending in their implicit assumptions, Anderson's narratives contradict Pohl's notions of anti-establishment science fiction; Falkayn's escapades are the interplanetary embodiment of the American capitalist idealism of the Kennedy era, unquestioned and unquestioning.

Split Infinity, by Piers Anthony, is the first volume of the now seemingly obligatory science fantasy trilogy and sees the self Stile alternate between the demanding tests of the Game he must win to remain on his home planet and an other-world of magic. Mr Anthony seems happier, if more indulgent, following the fantasy; the descriptions of the Game are muscular, but terse.

The Nomborn King, by Julian May, "Book Three in the Saga of the Exiles", lurches beyond the confines of the trilogy as well as those of decency; at the end of a mishmash of psycho-babble we are threatened with a fourth volume in this humourless bulk of a book. For the record, a tangle of time-travel and stunts, their trunions and trulls, complete with sub-Tolkien cartography. Awful. It will probably sell thousands.

The Danvers at the End Of Time, by Michael Moorcock, of yet another trilogy, recalls strengths and weaknesses of the Ludbrooke Grove school of British science fiction/fantasy. Engagingly, earnestly English in their conceits and comedies, Moorcock's time-trippers are as delightful - and dated - as the dandified indulgences of the psychédelic high summers that inspired them. Greg Neale

A traveller hides from the throng

The Hidden Places of Britain By Leslie Thomas, Penguin, £4.95

much of a hurry to get anywhere.

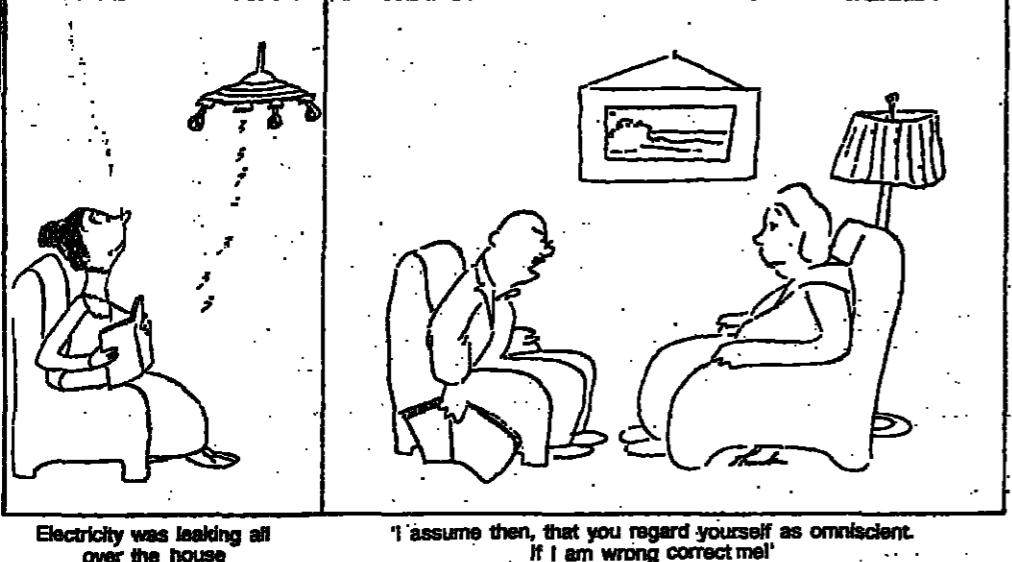
Some of his hidden places are obvious, such as Shetland and western Ross; others are within an hour's drive of London, such as the forgotten stretches of the north Kent coast or the weedy and overgrown stretches of the Oxford Canal. Hidden places need not be remote; they can just as well be on the doorstep but ignored as the crowds drive past them in their hurry to get somewhere else.

Thomas's 13 hidden places span the length of these islands from Unst in Shetland to Cape

Cornwall, a hidden place in winter when the tourists are hibernating in their cities. At each, the reporter mellowly into a descriptive essayist and a dedicated listener, gathering the lore and the lives of rooted residents who regard the next county as the other side of the world.

The trouble with books about hidden places is that they encourage people to discover them, and they are no longer hidden. Leslie Thomas's book is less of a danger than some, for many readers will be quite content to travel through his easy, entertaining and picturesque narrative from the comfort of their hidden armchairs.

Alan Hamilton



PREVIEW Theatre

Bush's rare bird in the hand

A Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Crimes of the Heart*, set in steamy small-town Mississippi, opens at the Bush Theatre, Shepherd's Bush, London W12, on Wednesday, *Crimes* - which enjoyed a long Broadway run and was Beth Henley's first play - was also something of a scoop for the tiny Bush, which won the British rights against strong competition from the Royal Shakespeare Company.

One reason is the theatre's close connexion with the United States. For some time it has put on an American play each year, including *Lone Star* and *Private Wars* both by the Texas James McLure. Like *Miss Beulah*, Beth Henley attended the Southern Methodist University in Texas, born and raised in Mississippi, the melting pot for her work, she now lives in Los Angeles. *Crimes of the Heart* was produced in 1979 at the Actors

Theatre of Louisville where it won the Great American Play Contest at the Louisville Festival.

Its New York premiere was at the Manhattan Theatre Club where it won the Pulitzer prize and it ran at the John Golden Theatre on Broadway from April 1981 until early this year, gaining the tribute "the most adorable tragic-comedy New York has seen in a long time" from *Civie Barnes* of the *New York Post*.

Simon Stokes, who has directed several American plays at the Bush, saw it in New York 18 months ago but was told the rights were tied up. Instead, he was offered Beth Henley's second play *The Miss Firecracker Contest* which proved popular when the Bush staged it last year. Partly as a result the theatre finally managed to secure *Crimes of the Heart*.

which Stokes hopes will now attract interest in the West End.

The play concerns the three McGraw sisters after the arrest of the youngest. The middle sister, who has left for Los Angeles to be a night-club singer, is summoned back home to help with the crisis by the eldest, who is settling into spinsterhood looking after their grandfather.

The strongly cast sisters are played by Brenda Blethyn, who was in the original cast of *Steaming*, Amanda Redman who co-starred in *Windy City*, and Wendy Morgan, who appeared in the TV serial *Pictures* and co-starred in Schlesinger's film *Yanks*.

Christopher Warman *Crimes of the Heart* is already previewing, and performances are at 8pm Tues-Sun; 7pm on May 18. (743 3388)

Critics' choice

ANOTHER COUNTRY Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (638 4141). Until May 31, Mon-Sat 10am-11pm

THE FESTIVAL OF BRAZIL begins with a two-part show giving an overall picture of the work of women artists in Brazil today and of Brazilian women artists based in Europe. An exhibition of works by 10 of the former and nine of the latter, covering a wide variety of media, is accompanied by another devoted to Rita Loureira's colourful paintings "Interpretation of Magazines".

FERNANDO BOTERO Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, London W1 (633 5151). Until June 3, Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm

The Colombian-born painter and sculptor's rich selection of recent work in familiar style is the first extensive London showing for some years.

THE ESSENTIAL CUBISM Tate Gallery, Bankside, London SW1 (821 1513). Until July 10, Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5.30pm

The most spectacular collection of Cubist masterpieces to have been brought together in this country since the inception of the movement itself. The intention of the show is to educate us in the central role played by Cubism in the careers of several major figures of

twentieth-century art, and in the evolution of modern art as a whole. And at the same time to knock us sideways with the sheer impact of so many monuments together.

THE HAGUE SCHOOL Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 (734 9052). Until July 10, daily 10am-6pm

The Hague School of painters laid the foundations for some of the developments in twentieth-century art. Inspired by seventeenth-century Dutch canvases, their paintings between 1870 and 1900 were avidly collected in America and Britain. One hundred and thirty landscapes, marine scenes and interiors by Bloemers, Bosboom and other members of the school

THE BEGGARS' OPERA Coliseum (628 2252). May 18 and 20 at 7.30pm.

In repertory Richard Eyre follows up his splendid production of *Guys and Dolls* with a gutsy revival of John Gay's proto-musical. The vibrancy of the staging and a company led to rousing good effect by Paul Jones's Macbeth are complemented by Dominic Muldowney's music.

CALL ME MADAM Victoria Palace (634 1317). Final performances today at 3pm and 7.30pm

Noëls Gordon bounces back into musicals with a splendidly brassy ambassador Sally Adams, the hostess with the mostess, in this often corny but highly enjoyable Irving Berlin classic of 1950.

CRYSTAL CLEAR Wyndham's (636 5058). Mon-Fri at 8.15pm, Sat at 5.30pm and 8.30pm; matinee Wed at 3pm

David Hare debates art versus social action in the form of a duel between an ex-patriot Indian novelist and a radical English

journalist, against the background of a Bombay conference on world poverty. A witty, eloquent and fatally over-ingenious production, with a fine central partnership between Roshan Seth and Bill Nighty.

MR CINDERS Fortune (636 2238). Mon-Fri at 8pm; Sat at 5.30pm and 8.45pm; matinee Thurs at 3pm

Patrick and enchanting songs and boasting a witty performance by Denis Lawson of acrobatic brilliance, Vivian Ellis's 1929 musical recasts *Cinderella* in the anyone-for-tennis age. Modest staging (originally at the King's Head); but the production's speed and sparkle make it an intoxicating evening.

NOISES OFF Savoy (636 8888). Mon-Fri at 7.45pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.45pm; matinee Thurs at 3pm

The turn-of-the-century farce for years, Michael Frayn's brilliantly contrived complex of on-stage disasters and backstage dramas is still keeping houses full and audiences helpless

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with laughter after its first casting. Phyllida Law, Benjamin Whitrow and the rest of Michael Blakemore's crack company.

THE REAL THING Strand (636 2660). Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.30pm; matinee Wed at 2.30pm

Highly uncharacteristic play by Tom Stoppard, starring Roger Rees as a successful playwright who discovers true love at the cost of his marbles, a fate the play shares with its protagonist, despite much ingenuity.

THE RIVALS Olivier (628 2252). Today and May 16-18 at 7.15pm; matinee today and May 17 at 2pm.

In repertory Peter Wood's sparkling revival of Sheridan fulfils the promise of its cast list. Geraldine McEwan as a young but hilariously affected Mrs Malaprop, Sir Michael Hordern, goaty and irascible, Patrick Ryecart as a witty hero and Tim Curry as the Devonshire squire bringing a fresh farmyard air to the world of the minut.

NOVA MULHER Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (638 4141). Until May 31, Mon-Sat 10am-11pm

The Festival of Brazil begins with a two-part show giving an overall picture of the work of women artists in Brazil today and of Brazilian women artists based in Europe. An exhibition of works by 10 of the former and nine of the latter, covering a wide variety of media, is accompanied by another devoted to Rita Loureira's colourful paintings "Interpretation of Magazines".

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PREVIEW Galleries

NOVA MULHER Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (638 4141). Until May 31, Mon-Sat 10am-11pm

The Festival of Brazil begins with a two-part show giving an overall picture of the work of women artists in Brazil today and of Brazilian women artists based in Europe. An exhibition of works by 10 of the former and nine of the latter, covering a wide variety of media, is accompanied by another devoted to Rita Loureira's colourful paintings "Interpretation of Magazines".

FERNANDO BOTERO Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, London W1 (633 5151). Until June 3, Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm

The Colombian-born painter and sculptor's rich selection of recent work in familiar style is the first extensive London showing for some years.

THE ESSENTIAL CUBISM Tate Gallery, Bankside, London SW1 (821 1513). Until July 10, Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5.30pm

The most spectacular collection of Cubist masterpieces to have been brought together in this country since the inception of the movement itself. The intention of the show is to educate us in the central role played by Cubism in the careers of several major figures of

twentieth-century art, and in the evolution of modern art as a whole. And at the same time to knock us sideways with the sheer impact of so many monuments together.

THE HAGUE SCHOOL Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 (734 9052). Until July 10, daily 10am-6pm

The Hague School of painters laid the foundations for some of the developments in

ENTERTAINMENTS

GLC South Bank Concert Halls

GLC South Bank Concert Halls, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XQ

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL Foyers Open

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

PURCELL ROOM

PURCELL ROOM

CHRISTCHURCH SPITALFIELDS FESTIVAL

CHRISTCHURCH SPITALFIELDS FESTIVAL

The Splendour of Venice

MONTEVERDI VESPERS 1610

AMARYLLIS CONSORT

AMARYLLIS CONSORT

OTHER CONCERTS

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

PHILHARMONIA

LOVRO VON MATAČIĆ

SIMON RATTLE

MISHA DICHTER

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

LOVRO VON MATAČIĆ

THE BACH CHOIR

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

RAYMOND GUBBAY

ROYAL GALA CONCERT

ORFF: CARMINA BURANA

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

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ROYAL ALBERT HALL

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

YEHUDI MENUHIN

GALA GERSHWIN EVENING

AN EVENING OF RUSSIAN MUSIC

ROYAL GALA CONCERT

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ROYAL GALA CONCERT

BARBICAN HALL

BARBICAN HALL

VIENNESE EVENING

OPERA GALA NIGHT

MOZART with MINUETS

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

WREN ORCHESTRA OF LONDON

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ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

GUILDHALL SCHOOL

PIANO MASTER CLASSES

EDITH VOGLER

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

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ENTERTAINMENTS

Wigmore Hall
Tonight 7.30pm: VERA BRENKOVSKA...
Tomorrow 8.00pm: LINDSAY STRONG...
Wednesday 8.00pm: ANA...
Thursday 8.00pm: COLY LINDSAY...
Friday 8.00pm: HERBERT DU PLESSIS...
Saturday 8.00pm: TOM KRAUSE...
Sunday 8.00pm: TRIO ZINGARA...
Monday 8.00pm: MARGARET FISHER...
Tuesday 8.00pm: DOUGLAS BOVD...
Wednesday 8.00pm: JEROME FAREWELL...
Thursday 8.00pm: ENRIQUE PEREZ...
Friday 8.00pm: THE ACADEMY OF...
Saturday 8.00pm: THERON FREDERICK...
Sunday 8.00pm: REINHOLD KORNIPP...
Monday 8.00pm: JULIA MADATOVA...
Tuesday 8.00pm: THE FAIRY OF...
Wednesday 8.00pm: VIRGINIA PLEASANTS...
Thursday 8.00pm: MARGARET FISHER...
Friday 8.00pm: MARGARET FISHER...
Saturday 8.00pm: MARGARET FISHER...
Sunday 8.00pm: MARGARET FISHER...

ROBERT THOMPSON bassoon
with guest artists THEA KING clarinet, JOHN CONSTABLE piano.
GRAHAM SHEER and ROBIN O'NEILL bassoons
Music by Saint-Saens, Elgar, Grieg, Debussy, Weissenberg and Vaughan

St John's Smith Square
Tonight 7.30pm: YOUNG MUSICIANS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA...
Tomorrow 8.00pm: ENGLISH BAROQUE SOLOISTS...
Wednesday 8.00pm: RECORDING SESSIONS...
Friday 8.00pm: ENGLISH BAROQUE SOLOISTS...
Saturday 8.00pm: ERNEST READ SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA...
Sunday 8.00pm: ERNEST READ SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA...

MALCOLM BILSON
with JOHN ELIOT GARDNER
The ENGLISH BAROQUE SOLOISTS & MONTEVERDI CHOIR
Programme: Monteverdi's Concerto for Three Violins, No. 1; Vivaldi's Concerto for Three Violins, No. 1; Corelli's Concerto for Three Violins, No. 1; Monteverdi's Concerto for Three Violins, No. 2.

Bath Festival
MAY 27 - JUNE 12
BOX OFFICE NOW OPEN
Tickets and details of all events available from Festival Box Office, 1 Pierspore Place, Bath
TELEPHONE BOOKINGS: 01225 852211

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC
Prince Consort Road, SW7
Tuesday 17 May at 7 pm
RCM SINFONIA
*Overture: Scapino
Sinfonia Concertante, Op. 125
Soloist - Amanda Truelove
Walton Prokofiev
Symphony No. 1
Conductors: Christopher Adey and *Russell Keable
Admission Free

LYRIC THEATRE
Tonight 8.00pm: THE BRITISH MUSICAL...
Tomorrow 8.00pm: BARBARA DICKSON IN...
Wednesday 8.00pm: "A TRIUMPH... SEE IT" CO LY...
Thursday 8.00pm: THE BUSINESS OF MURDER...
Friday 8.00pm: THE BUSINESS OF MURDER...
Saturday 8.00pm: THE BUSINESS OF MURDER...
Sunday 8.00pm: THE BUSINESS OF MURDER...

Preview Films
A serious step for Dud the buffoon



"Most people still think of you as a bit of a buffoon," Dudley Moore's American congressional candidate is told in the early minutes of Six Weeks. Most people in Britain certainly do, yet across the Atlantic the pocket-sized jazz pianist and former partner of Peter Cook has risen to the status of male pin-up and all-round superstar. Moore's ascent began with his supporting role as a randy British expatriate in Foul Play (1978). Audiences liked his eccentricity, his Britishness, even his smallness. Then came '70 (1979), where he tottered through Blake Edwards's elegant slapstick as a sexually frustrated songwriter, successively bedfuddled by drink. In Arthur (1981) he never had a sober moment, and his American success was sealed. Six Weeks, released in the States just before Christmas, marks an important step away from comedy. For there is little outright buffoonery in the life of congressional candidate Patrick Dalton (his political party is discreetly unspecified). He becomes emotionally involved with the fate of a precocious young girl dying of leukaemia (played by Katherine Healy, a talented ice-skater and ballerina acting for the first time). He becomes equally involved with her mother, the head of a cosmetics empire (played by Mary Tyler Moore - once a pert TV comedienne, though she now

adopts the lordly manner of a soap opera queen). With such complications, there is clearly little time for fun - or even politics. Scriptwriter David Seltzer (The Olsen, Table for Five) derived this arduous concoction from a novel by Fred Mustard Stewart. For seven years the project ran hot and cold, then suddenly became a reality in 10 weeks during the winter of 1981/2 - the hurried schedule was caused by Moore's crowded diary and the need to catch Christmas in New York. The director assigned was Tony Bill, better known as a lively producer (The Sting, Taxi Driver) and a boyish-looking actor (he was the John Dean surrogate in Washington: Behind Closed Doors). In My Bodyguard, his previous film as director, Bill showed a promising talent for quiet observation: here, he needed all his skills to prevent the film dissolving into puddles of sentimentality. Following Six Weeks, Dudley Moore returned to buffoonery: its cast list appropriately includes Gene Kelly (BBC2, today, 9.20-11.20pm). Tomorrow two of the American cinema's greatest comedians are on view: Bob Hope as a racing tipster in The Lemon Drop Kid from 1951 (BBC1, 1.55-3.25pm) and Danny Kaye, with his red hair dyed blonde, as a hypochondriac called up for military service in his first film, Up in Arms, which appeared in 1944 (Channel 4, 10.15pm-12.10am). Channel 4's Jean-Luc Godard season concludes with two films from 1967, La Chinoise (Monday, 11pm-12.45am) and Weekend (Wednesday, 9-10.45pm). They will confirm Godard as one of the seminal figures in modern cinema or expose him as its leading charlatan, depending on your point of view. Less controversially, Marilyn Monroe is in the comedy, Bus Stop, directed by Joshua Logan from William Inge's play in 1966 (BBC2, Tuesday, 7.25-9.15pm) and the young Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney star in Babes in Arms, a lively "putting on a show" musical from 1939, directed by the master, Busby Berkeley (BBC2, Wednesday, 5.40-7.10pm). Peter Waymark

Critics' choice

- CONFIDENCE (15) Gate Notting Hill (221 0200/72 5750) István Szabó's austere, compelling tale of emotional conflicts between two fugitives posing as man and wife in Nazi-occupied Hungary; filmed with the same sureness, insight and excellent use of modest resources that marked the director's Mephisto (made two years later). Eloquent muted photography by Lajos Koltai, and a haunting central performance by Ilkko Bánfalvi.
FANNY AND ALEXANDER (15) Lumière St Martin's Lane (836 0681) Also at Glasgow Film Theatre May 16-21 (041 332 6535) Edinburgh Film Theatre May 22-June 4 (031 228 2688) London's chief cinematic pleasure: Ingmar Bergman's amazing evocation of life's joys and terrors, staged with exceptional candour, beauty and lightness of touch. Traditional Bergman themes are deftly woven into the mixed fortunes of a Swedish family early in the century. Masterful, loving performances.
FRIDAY THE 13TH, PART III (18) ABC Bayswater (229 4149) ABC Edgware Road (723 5901) ABC Fulham Road (370 2635) Classic Oxford Street (636 0310) Piazza Piccadilly Circus (437 1234) and on national release Steve Miner's sequel in 3D, set at the lakeside resort with its grisly history of mass murder. With Dana Kimmell and Paul Kratka.
GANDHI (PG) Classic Chelsea (352 5055) Odeon Kensington (602 6644) Odeon Marble Arch (723 2011) Warner West End (439 0791) and on selected national release Awarded eight Oscars, Richard Attenborough's three-hour-long, carefully crafted and sumptuously photographed life of the Mahatma is a courageous attempt to film what many considered unfilmable. With a remarkable performance by Ben Kingsley.
PASSION (18) Camden Plaza (485 2443) The presence of star names such as Isabelle Huppert, Hanna Schygulla and Michel Piccoli represents the only obvious concession to public taste in Jean-Luc Godard's self-styled attempt at "democratic" cinema. The mingled activities of film-makers, factory workers and owners are beautifully photographed in wintry Swiss landscapes; difficult, noisy, riveting and infuriating.
TOOTSIE (PG) Classic Chelsea (352 5055) Odeon Kensington (602 6644) Odeon Leicester Square (930 5252) Expert comedy about desperate actor Dustin Hoffman finding financial success and emotional turmoil as a female soap opera star. Larry Gelbart and Murray Schisgal's knowing, witty script never loses sight of the serious ramifications; Sydney Pollack directs with self-effacing skill, and Hoffman's performance is remarkable. With Jessica Lange, Charles Durning, Teri Garr.

Concerts

- METAPLISIS Tonight, 7.30pm, St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (222 1061) The Young Musicians' Symphony Orchestra under Spilargis give the UK premiere of tannis Icarandis's Metaplsis; later comes Bruckner's Symphony No 7, and in between Jenny Drvalva sings aria from the Mad Scene from Hamlet by Thomas.
SANG ALL DAY Tonight, 7.30pm, Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3191, credit cards 928 5544) The London Camata Choir sing Fritz's My Spirit Song All Day, Wishart's Clouds, Ireland's Hills, Jobert's Kontakion, Jackson's Song for a My Concert, and more.
BERG AND BERG Tonight, 7.30pm, Royal Northern College of Music, 151 Regent Street, Manchester (061 273 4504) Peter Donohoe plays Berg's post-Tristanesque Piano Sonata and then joins Richard Deakin (violin) and the RCM Baroque under Sir Charles Groves in Berg's Chamber Concerto. Donohoe is also heard in Mozart's Concerto K 491.
BERKELEY'S 80TH Tonight, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3191, credit cards 928 5544) Sir Lennox Berkeley's 80th birthday is celebrated by the
LONG JOHN BALDRY Tonight, The Carleton, 4 Great Queen Street, London WC2 (405 5598); tomorrow, New Regent, Brighton
A founder member of the early British rhythm and blues movement, later a crooning balladeer. Let us hope that his return means "Let the Good Times Roll" rather than "Let the Heartaches Begin".
LAINE/DANKWORTH Tonight, Warwick University, Warwick, Warwick; Tuesday, Oxford Apollo; Fri, Barbican Hall, London EC2
Cleo and John on tour again, with a small group featuring that excellent vibraphonist Bill La Sogno, a pillar of the British jazz scene for several generations.
JOHNNY MATHIS Tonight and tomorrow, Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (880 8562) A comparison of Mathis with Miss Warwick is instructive, suggesting how beneficial it can be for a singer to work with one team of writers. Mathis possesses a beautiful voice, but has 25 years of recording really created a genuine body of work?
HANNIBAL PETERSON Tomorrow, Wells Centre, Norfolk; Mon, 100 Club, 100 Oxford Street, London W1 (538 0933); Tues, Brunstone Hotel, Leicester, Wed, Vero's, Nottingham
The exciting trumpet returns with his quintet, including his sister, the singer Pat Peterson, and Michael Cochrane, an interesting pianist.
RIP RIG & PANIC Tomorrow, Top Rank, Brighton; Mon, Hammersmith Palais, 242 Shepherd's Bush Road, London W8 (748 2812); Thurs, Leadmill, Sheffield
Their third album, Antides, consolidates the brilliant experiments of its predecessors. They may not have made it on to Breakfast Time yet, but they are without doubt the most vital of the young British groups.
MARILYN MAYE Mon-Sat, The Cartoon, London WC2
An American jazz-cabaret singer. Miss Maye comes packaged with encores from Johnny Carson and Ella Fitzgerald. The promising information that she comes from Kansas City is rather belated by the knowledge that her act includes a version of "Take Five".
ERIC CLAPTON Mon-Thurs, Hammersmith Odeon, London W8
The guitars of Clapton and Albert Lee and the keyboards of Chris Stills are propelled by the bass of Duck Dunn (late of Booker T and the MGs) and the drums of Roger Hawkins (of the Muscle Shoals studio rhythm section).
NICO Tues, Ace Town Hall Parade, Brighton, London SW2 (274 4463) All thoughts of dolce vita long behind her, the dark lady of the Velvet Underground trails Gothic ballads and an imperishable legend.
EDDIE VINSON Thurs, UCS Theatre, Frognaal, London NW3 (431 0144) The effervescent "Cleveland" sings and plays alto saxophone with bluesy humour and drive.
ROBERT PALMER Fri, Capitol Theatre, Aberdeen
Working quietly at his base in Glasgow, Palmer has arrived at a fascinating synthesis of soul music and modern electro-rock. His concerts teeter beguilingly on the brink of the perfect resolution.

Dance

- Laura Dean Sadler's Wells (278 8316) May 17-21 at 7.30pm. Composer and choreographer Laura Dean brings her dancers and musicians to London for five nights, starting Tuesday. Her use of simple, repeated elements has attracted enthusiasm in the States; she says her works make some people feel peaceful, others cry, and a few walk out. Take a risk.
SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET Covent Garden (240 1066) After the last Swan Lake on Monday (with Samsova and Ashmore), there is a triple bill (Wednesday, Friday) of Binyav's gripping Night Moves to Britten's Frank Bridge variations. MacMillan's golden oldie The Invitation (last in the schoolroom), and Massine's popular romp La Boutique fantasque.
BALLET RAMBERT Southampton, Gosport (0703 29771) today at 8pm Bath, Royal (0225 65065) May 17-19 at 7.15 pm, May 20, 21 at 6.15 pm Varied programmes all include at least one work by the gifted Richard Alton, together with works by one or both of Rambert's other house choreographers, Christopher Bruce and Robert North, plus Marco Cunningham's Fiddling Sins tonight and Paul Taylor's Axs next Friday and Saturday.
Marion Tait and Desmond Kelly in The Invitation

Films on TV

Think of Glenn Miller and the cinema and you probably think of James Stewart's likable impersonation in The Glenn Miller Story. But at the height of his popularity in the early 1940s Miller himself appeared in two feature films, the second of which, Orchestra Wives, is on Channel 4 today (2.45-4.35pm). Good as the later recreation of it was, this film gives the authentic Miller sound, played by the man and his orchestra in numbers like "I've Got a Girl in Kalamazoo" and "Serenade in Blue". Also this afternoon, BBC2 is showing a two-part series, Rains on Sunday, directed by the talented Robert (Kind Hearts and Coronets) Hamer for Ealing in 1947 and a notable excursion, for its time, into working class realism. Googie Wilkins, Jack Warner and John McCallum star in the story of a Dartmoor convict on the run (BBC2, 3.10-4.40pm). Sisters in real life, Catherine Demmeve and the late Françoise Dorléac are sisters, too, in Jacques Demy's romantic musical, Les Dames de Rochefort. Made in 1966, with more than a nod towards Hollywood, its cast list appropriately includes Gene Kelly (BBC2, today, 9.20-11.20pm). Tomorrow two of the American cinema's greatest comedians are on view: Bob Hope as a racing tipster in The Lemon Drop Kid from 1951 (BBC1, 1.55-3.25pm) and Danny Kaye, with his red hair dyed blonde, as a hypochondriac called up for military service in his first film, Up in Arms, which appeared in 1944 (Channel 4, 10.15pm-12.10am). Channel 4's Jean-Luc Godard season concludes with two films from 1967, La Chinoise (Monday, 11pm-12.45am) and Weekend (Wednesday, 9-10.45pm). They will confirm Godard as one of the seminal figures in modern cinema or expose him as its leading charlatan, depending on your point of view. Less controversially, Marilyn Monroe is in the comedy, Bus Stop, directed by Joshua Logan from William Inge's play in 1966 (BBC2, Tuesday, 7.25-9.15pm) and the young Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney star in Babes in Arms, a lively "putting on a show" musical from 1939, directed by the master, Busby Berkeley (BBC2, Wednesday, 5.40-7.10pm). Peter Waymark

Preview Music

- extensive use of theatrical affects". Also on the menu are his Arms and Lee Solory's The Reckless Sleeper.
FISCHER, YO YO Tomorrow, 8pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall
A characteristically substantial programme by Annie Fischer includes Beethoven's Sonatas Opp 79 and 101, Chopin's Sonata Op 35 and Nocturne Op 27 No 1, and Schumann's Kinderszenen. At 7.15pm Yo Yo Ma plays Bach's first three suites for unaccompanied cello (and Nos 4 & 6 next Sunday at the same time).
PRAISE OF COFFEE Tomorrow, 11.30am, Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (935 2141, credit cards 930 9232) The Accademia Arcadiana's concert is called "In Praise of Coffee" and includes Bach's "Coffee Cantata" and a Bernier cantata named Le Café. This, indeed, is a Wigmore Coffee Morning, and you get a free drink afterwards though nothing intoxicating: apricot, squash - or coffee.
SZYMANOWSKI Tomorrow, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
Herbert du Plessis undertakes Szymanowski's elaborately beautiful Mesques; grouped round them are Chopin's Ballade Op 47, Fantasy Op 48 and Schubert's Piano Sonata D 845.
effectively contrasted quartets by Ravel, Shostakovich (No 8) and Mozart (K 458, "The Hunt").
ZINGARA TRIO Wed, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
Plugging their latest Phoenix LP, the Zingara Trio play Haydn's Trio Hob XV/28, Dvorák's "Dumky" Trio Op 90 and Frank Martin's little-known Trio of 1950.
ORIGINAL RACHMANINOV Thurs, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall
Connoisseurs' Red Alert: Philip Fowkes offers Chopin's complete works and the greatly to be preferred original version of Rachmaninov's Piano Sonata No 2.
POLYPIANOLISTICS Fri, 7.30pm, Purcell Room
Rena Lawson and Denis Hall proffer a panorama of polyplanolistic pyrotechnics, with Beethoven's Symphony No 5 on a pair of pianolas, works by Chopin, Rachmaninov, and items specially written for pianola by Milhaud, Sax (it is his centenary this year) and Stravinsky.
VIVALDI GALORE Fri, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall
After his Sinfonia in F, the London Vivaldi Orchestra plays five Vivaldi concertos for string trio, violin, d'amore or recorder, and a recorder concerto by William Babell.

Opera

COVENT GARDEN
Tonight and next Saturday at 5.30pm is the time to see the revival of the Royal Opera's warm-hearted production of Die Meistersinger with, as last time, Hans Sotin as Hans Sachs, Gerald Evans as Beckmesser and Lucia Popp as Eva. Colin Davis conducts. Highly recommended. Tuesday and Thursday are queuing days. (240 1066)
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
As their London season draws to a close, tonight and Wednesday provide two more chances to see David Pountney's powerful new production of Prokofiev's The Gambler and opportunities on Tuesday, Thursday and next Saturday to see The Magic Flute. Katherine Pope replaces an indisposed Marilyn Hill Smith as Papageno. (836 3161). Booking is well under way for ENO's Plymouth season starting on May 25, so if you want to see Rigoleto, Carmen, Fedra or the Flute, ring while there are tickets left. (0752 669595, credit cards 267222).
WELSH NATIONAL OPERA
Tuesday is the opening night of a new production of Carmen which promises to strip the work controversially to its bones. Katherine Pope replaces Hilary Swain as the British directing debut, American Jennifer Jones is Carmen and Jacques Trussel Don José. The Cardiff performances on Tuesday and Friday are sold out, but ring the New Theatre (0222 32446) for information about returns. Failing that, you can catch the production as it travels to Southampton and Bristol later in the month.
BRIGHTON FESTIVAL
The theme is the late works of Mozart and the opera is Film-Sky-Korsakov's Mozart and Salieri a double-bill with Pushkin's work of the same name read by Lord Bernard Miles. Tomorrow at 3pm and 7pm at Brighton College. (0273 682127)
Films: Geoff Brown and Peter Waymark. Concerts: Max Harrison. Rock and jazz: Richard Williams. Opera: Hilary Finch. Dance: John Percival.

The Hague School
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ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS
Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1.
Open daily 10 am-6 pm. April 16th-July 10th. Admission £2 & £1.
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THE WEEK AHEAD

Today

BIGGIN HILL AIR FAIR: Official opening by Prince Andrew at 12.30 pm, after parade of classic cars from 11 am.

LIONS KICK OFF: The British Lions' Rugby tour of New Zealand opens with a match against Wanganui and highlights will be shown a few hours later on Grandstand.

BEVERLEY NICHOLS: His literary career started at the age of eight when he had a poem published in a Torquay newspaper.

Tomorrow

BILLINGSGATE FISH FAIR: A rare opportunity for the public to visit London's fish market, which moved to its new site last year.

MONACO GRAND PRIX: The motor racing world championship moves to its most attractive venue, the streets of Monte Carlo.

CONFESSIONS OF A MIDDLE-AGED JUVENILE DELINQUENT: A musical autobiography of Fran Landesman, the American cult songwriter.

THE BLUE AND THE GRAY: Gregory Peck makes his television debut, playing Abraham Lincoln in a three-part drama.

of the American Civil War. Stacey Keach and John Hammond take the other leading parts and the cast also includes Sterling Hayden, Lloyd Bridges and Geraldine Page.

Monday

MAX SCHMIDT: VIEWS OF ARABIA: The Mathaf Gallery's specialist exploration of Western art connected with the Arab world has led already to the rediscovery of once-famous British painters like Leighton and the revelation of several new and Italian records of the Middle-Eastern scene.

BUGSY MALONE: The children's gangster musical, based on Alan Parker's film, with music and lyrics by Paul Malone.

PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG BOY: The childhood memories of Dylan Thomas, in this, the first stage presentation, which uses 10 actors to portray the 55 characters from the anthology of the same title.

LIZA MINNELLI: The vivacious American entertainer in an evening of song, dance and sketches, including a tribute to her father, Vincente Minnelli.



From left: Tim Brooke-Taylor, a straight role; John Watson, heading for Monaco; Liza Minnelli, in SW1

THIRTY YEARS ON: As well as the Coronation and the conquest of Everest, 1953 was notable for its sporting achievements - Gordon Richards's Derby, Stanley Matthews's Cup Final and Denis Compton making the hit that won the Ashes.

BRENDAL PLAYS BEETHOVEN: The first of seven programmes in which the pianist Alfred Brendel tackles all 32 Beethoven sonatas.

SPOTLIGHT: New series of one-man shows in which show business personalities recall their careers with a mixture of songs, jokes and anecdotes.

PRIVATE LIVES: Not another Coward revival but a new talk show hosted by the actress Maria Aiken.

THE RENAISSANCE AT SUTTON PLACE: Prince Charles, accompanied by the Princess of Wales, opens an exhibition to celebrate the 450th anniversary of Henry VIII's visit to the

newly completed home of his friend Sir Richard Weston, in 1533. Sutton Place, Guildford, Surrey (0483 504455). Open by appointment only, Tues-Sat. Admission: exhibition £1.50, students £1; house and garden £4, students £2. Until Sept 15.

DEAD RINGER: Political thriller by James Franks, in which members of the Cabinet seek to win a General Election by substituting their dead PM with a live Doppelgänger.

NO EXCUSES: New seven-part drama series set in the world of rock music, written by Barrie Keeffe and with songs by Andy J. Clark.

PINKETON'S PROGRESS: Geoffrey Whitehead, Eleanor Bron and Derek Farr star in a new six-part comedy series set in a boys' public school where the staff are more concerned with creature comforts than educating their charges.

FRENCH FURNITURE: Today's sale is devoted to "a distinguished collection of French furniture" described as "the property of a lady".

THAMES BARGE SAILING CLUB OPEN DAYS: Greenwich Pier, London, SE10. Today and tomorrow, 10am-5pm.

Parleian abnominis. Christie's King Street, London, SW1 (839 8060) 11am.

CHINESE CONTEMPORARIES: A market is beginning to develop in contemporary paintings by Chinese artists working outside China.

TRIO (LIES AND SECRETS): Brief, interconnected sketches reflecting human captivity in history and the search, through music, for more immediate forms of language.

SCIENTIFIC MEMORABILIA: Science has achieved wonderful and unsuspected things in the last couple of hundred years and today's sale contains some reminders: a set of Weeden anemometer instruments, a silver-plated air-trumpet, a steel-framed orthopaedic corset (circa 1800), an American typewriter of circa

1884 and (believe it or not) a "Polymeranoplastic" with 12 tissue slides.

FINE TIPPLES: Christie's are selling off the cellar of a "recently deceased private collector", mainly devoted to superb claret and cognac.

ANDROID: Sci-fi film with Klaus Kinski as Dr Daniel, who lives on an abandoned space station and is completing his final experiment: the construction of the perfect android.

HONKY TONK MAN: Cent Eastwood and his son enjoy making his film debut, playing a hard-drinking country musician and his nephew who travels to Nashville during the American Depression.

BEETHOVEN'S TENTH: A new play by Peter Ustinov, in which he plays the ghost of the composer, who returns to Earth and the home of a music critic.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS: Roger Hill directs his own adaptation of Dickens, in which contemporary issues of child care and abuse are highlighted.

LEARN: Barry Kyle directs Royal Shakespeare Company production of the Edward Bond play, intended to be seen in conjunction with King Lear in the main theatre.

ARSENAL: The Britain in the Thirties series focuses on the most glamorous and successful football team of the era.

whose names ring down the years: Matisse, Haggard, James, Drake, Hume, Basile. The great days are recalled with new-found feeling and first-hand accounts from players and spectators.

THE EASTERN CARPET IN THE WESTERN WORLD: The Arts Council's big contribution to the oriental carpet which seems to be upon us is this display of carpets as they first burst upon the West when imported between the 16th and 17th centuries.

SCOTTISH SILVER: A bumper offering, mainly, but not exclusively of spoons, from both big and very small silver-making centres in Scotland - Aberdeen (of course), Arbroath, Ballater, Banchory, Cairn Robin, Cullinstown, Dumfries and many other places.

WALKING ON WALTER: The long-awaited new play by Clare Luchman, author of Trafford Tangle, tells of a sponsored walk that ends in disaster.

POSSIBILITIES: Tim Brooke-Taylor forsakes humour for his first straight acting part as a pushy estate agent in Jonathan Raban's play, which also stars Robin Ellis from Fiddlers' Dramas and Carol Royle.

FAIRS: CALLING ALL CARPENTERS Drill Hill, Bridge Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire (0565 2323). Today 10am-5pm; admission 25p, pensioners 15p, accompanied children free.

NORTH-EAST ANTIQUES 10th Annual Aberdeen Antiques Fair, Amstel Hotel, Great Western Road, Aberdeen (05474 356). May 20, 21 11am-5pm; admission £1, children 25p.

BELFAST FAIR Forum Hotel, Great Victoria Street, Belfast (0286 684/44004). Tues-Thurs 2-10pm; admission £1.50.

Family Life

Absorbing 1,000 years of history at Windsor

Few towns, it might be thought, would find it so easy to attract tourists as Windsor. But even well-established, popular towns and cities need to keep reminding would-be travellers of the benefits of stopping in their locality - and Windsor, with far more than its fair share of history and amenities is no exception.

Money - or the lack of it - has much to do with a family's reluctance to stay in a hotel when there are perfectly good beds at home. And then there are the crowds: a hot, sunny Saturday in midsummer may seem like an ideal time to take a trip to Windsor, browse round the castle, take a boat upstream - but if you meet up with the hundreds of other families similarly inspired, your own back garden suddenly becomes more attractive.

Windsor Castle is, of course, the main attraction. Built by the Conqueror but extensively enlarged over the ensuing 900 years (the precincts today are nearly one mile in circumference), it can be toured with a qualified guide. But if you find another voice, however in-

formed, and fellow wanderers intrusive, buy a guide book. The castle precincts are open every day of the year except June 13 (10am-5.15pm in the summer) and admission is free.

The State Apartments, including the Queen's Presence, Waterloo Chamber and Grand Vestibule, are closed only when the Queen is in official residence, which is from March 14 to May 1, from May 31 to June 24, and from December 5 to 31, and are therefore open during the summer (weekdays 10.30am-5pm, Sundays 1.30pm-5pm). Admission costs £1.20 for adults, 50p for children aged five to 16.

Still within the castle precincts, St George's Chapel is one of the most beautiful examples of late Perpendicular architecture in the world. Ten

sovereigns are buried here and it is also the shrine of the Order of the Garter. The Chapel is open summer weekdays 10.45am-4pm, and Sundays 2pm-4pm; admission costs £1 for adults, 50p for children aged five to 16. There are conducted tours from June to September on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 11.15am and 2.15pm. Services are of course, free and open to all. Evensong is at 5.15pm every day, Sung Eucharist at 11.45am on Sundays.

For Christopher Robins and the general public, the changing of the guard at Windsor Castle takes place between about 11 and 11.40am every weekday.

In the town, the Royalty and Railways Exhibition at Windsor and Eton Central Railway Station is the latest Madame Tussaud's venture and as professionally mounted and executed as you would expect. It is a permanent exhibition celebrating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee of 1897 and includes full-sized replicas of the Royal Train, Queen Victoria and other royal personages, horses, a military parade etc, all with sound and visual special effects. The exhibition is open daily from 9.30am-5.30pm; adults £1.85, children £1. The Windsor Brass Rubbing Centre at the parish church of St John the Baptist, in the High Street offers the opportunity for a spot of creative activity, making your own brass rubbings of knights and ladies (Monday to Saturday, 10am-5pm).

Outside Windsor, the Valley Gardens cover about 400 acres of ground on the north bank of Virginia Water Lake and are

perhaps most notable for the 50 acres containing an amazing collection of rhododendrons, azaleas, magnolias, camellias and spring flowering trees. Some of the magnolias may be over now, but the rest should be in full bloom. Entrance is 70p per car.

The Savill Garden, which celebrates its Golden Jubilee this year, though smaller than the Valley Gardens, is acknowledged as one of the finest of its kind. It is open daily from 10am-6pm or 7pm. Entrance is £1.20 for adults, free for accompanied children. The above list is by no means exhaustive. You could also, for example, take a boat trip upstream on an open-top double-decker bus tour of the town centre and outskirts, visit Eton College and playing fields, Smith's Lawn or even the Safari Park.

Judy Froshaug

Windsor's wooing ways: On a quiet day a Thames boat ride beckons

OUTINGS The exhibition includes the only known surviving Chartist banner, an Enoch's hammer (used by Ludites to smash machinery) and a lot of material from the Museum of London's large collection of suffragette material. Also displays on the Tolpuddle Martyrs, General Strike and the docks. The Livesey is excellent at mounting this kind of exhibition, which is fun as well as educational.

SHREWSBURY REGATTA The River Severn, Quarry Park, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. Today and tomorrow from noon

THE SECOND LONDON MODEL OCCOMOTIVE TRIALS The London Toy and Model Museum, 23 Crown Hill, W2. Today and tomorrow, 2 pm-5 pm. Adults 1.50, children 50p

OPEN DAY Lincolnshire Vintage Vehicle Society Depot, Whistley Road, Lincoln. Tomorrow from 2pm

SOUTH LEICESTERSHIRE MG OWNERS CLUB RALLY AND CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE Stamford Hill, Lutterworth. Tomorrow 11am-6pm

ROYAL WINDSOR HORSE SHOW The Home Park, Windsor Castle, Berkshire. Today 9am-10.30pm, May 15 9am-7pm

THE NINE POINTED CROWN The Little Angel Marionette Theatre, Dagmar Passage, Cross Street, London N1 (226 1787). Today, 11 am and 3 pm, tomorrow 3 pm. Morning: adults £1.50, children £1; afternoon: adults £2.25, children £1.50

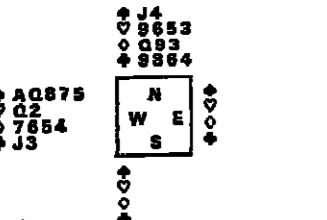
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Bridge Arithmetic provides a lucky guess

The "art in guessing" may appear to be a contradiction in terms, but it is a valuable part of an expert's stock in trade. Here is an everyday example. Rubber Bridge, North-South game and 40. Dealer South.



The bidding was brief. South opened two no-trumps and everyone passed. As West, you lead the ♠7, dummy plays the ♠J, East plays the ♠2, which you may assume to show an odd number, and declarer contributes the ♠3. Declarer continues with the ♠3 from dummy, East follows with the ♠4 and you take declarer's ♠8 with your queen.

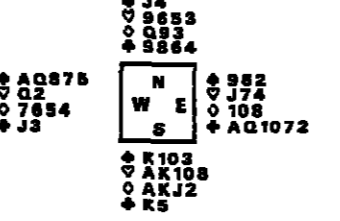
What should you play to trick three, and, if the contract is defeatable, what is your opinion of declarer's technique?

assumed to have king to three spades, leaving your partner with three small spades or three to the ten. The critical suit is obviously hearts. Declarer has intentionally lost a trick to you in order to keep East off lead. There are two possible holdings from which he might plausibly play the ♠8, A J 10 8 or A K 10 8. If it is the former, the defence is surely doomed, because to make up his announced 20 or 21 points declarer must hold too many high cards in the minors, for example the A K of diamonds and the A Q of clubs.

Dummy's queen of diamonds will be an entry for a second heart finesse, and declarer will come to eight tricks without difficulty. So we assume that declarer has ♠A K 10 8, and all of a sudden dummy's ♠9 assumes an enormous significance. Why? Because if declarer required an extra entry to dummy he would have played the ♠10 rather than the ♠8, preserving the ♠8 to get back to dummy later.

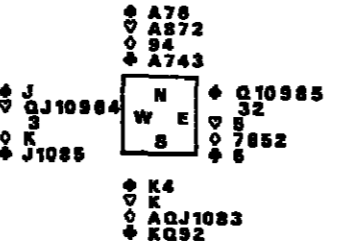
So declarer did not need an entry to dummy because he was confident that he already had one. That could only be the ♠Q, which means that declarer had

the A K of diamonds. These were the four hands:



As you can see, the "safe" diamond switch was sterile, whereas a club would have beaten the contract. As for declarer's technique, it was impeccable, because by playing the ♠8 rather than the ♠10, he unnecessarily gave the defence an invaluable clue.

Here is a more spectacular example.



After West had opened with three hearts, North-South overstretching to 7NT. Declarer won the opening lead of the ♠Q with his ♠K. Dismally, he recognised that the contract would almost certainly require the diamond finesse and break. Partly to postpone the fateful moment, he cashed the king and queen of clubs. When East showed out, declarer was forced to reconsider. He cashed the ♠K, and when West followed, declarer played the ♠A with devastating effect.

Inspiration? A lucky guess? No, pure arithmetic. West must have seven hearts to justify his vulnerable pre-empt. When he is also seen to hold four clubs as well as at least one spade, there is only room for one diamond at most. If East has the four diamonds to the King, the diamond finesse will only produce three tricks, because there are only two diamonds in dummy.

The only hope was that West's singleton was the singleton king. Admittedly, it was lucky, but there is an art in being lucky as well as an art in guessing.

Jeremy Flint

Chess Winning the right to challenge the throne

Though I say it myself, there is a wealth of interest in this month's British Chess Magazine (my own interest is my unpaid chairmanship of the board of directors, but I leave all the work to David Anderson, the board's secretary, and can take none of the credit).

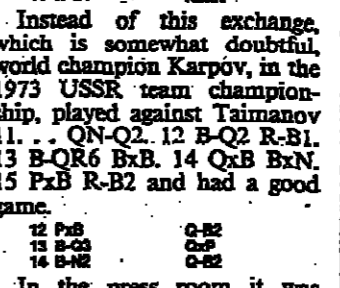
Just take some of the items on the cover: Kasparov defeats Belyavsky; USSR Federation reprimanded; BCF interim grading list; notes by G. M. Ribbi and G. M. Nunn. True, I was a little taken aback to find that a single number cost £1.05; but for this you get 38 games, some fully annotated, and 48 full pages. A wise man would take out a year's subscription at £12.60 by surface mail, or six months at £6.30. Send subscriptions to British Chess Magazine, 9 Market Street, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex, TN 38 0DQ.

I suppose the chief item in the current issue is the match between Kasparov and Belyavsky in the quarter-finals of the Candidates series, which is treated with the thoroughness it deserves. It could easily have been the final of the series and was an even struggle between two great young players, either



Kasparov: Under attack of whom could give the world champion cause to think in a world championship match next year. One of the best games of the match was the exciting fourth, won by Belyavsky. White: Belyavsky. Black: Kasparov QP. Nimzindorian Defence.

Now comes a fine spirited blow by White that reveals how strong a player Belyavsky is.



Instead of this exchange, which is somewhat doubtful, world champion Karpov, in the 1973 USSR team championship, played against Taimanov 11... QN-Q2, 12 B-Q2 R-B1, 13 B-QR6 Bx B. 14 QxB BxN, 15 PxB R-B2 and had a good game.

In the press room it was thought that better was 14... Q-R4, retaining control of the vital Q4 square. How well remember those confused and stifling press rooms in Moscow during world championship matches in which we hazarded variations with an abandon all the more reckless because we had nothing to lose.

A fine pawn sacrifice that results in a great weakening of Black's king position.

Harry Golombek

Now comes a fine spirited blow by White that reveals how strong a player Belyavsky is.

Harry Golombek

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Investment and Finance

City Editor Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

City Office 200 Gray's Inn Road London WC1X 9EZ Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 667.7 down 0.9 FT Gilt 80.69 down 0.35 FT All Shares 417.91 up 0.17 ...

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling \$1.5670 down 25pts Index 83.9 down 0.1 DM 3.8325 down 0.125 ...

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Base rate 10% 3 month interbank 10 1/4% Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 8 1/2% ...

PRICE CHANGES

House of Fraser 186p up 6p Glaxo 855p up 6p Shell 488p up 4p ...

£1m rise at Percy Bilton

Percy Bilton, the property group which last week successfully bought off a £107m takeover bid from Trust Securities ...

ILLINGWORTH MORRIS

An extension until August 8 has been given to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to report on the proposed acquisition of Illingworth Morris by Mr Alan Lewis of Abele.

FORD BOOST

Ford is to invest £78m at the Halewood, Merseyside, transmission plant for the manufacture of five-speed automatics which until now are exclusively produced in Bourdon.

BID DELAY

Plesurama is delaying issue of its offer document in its £59.3m agreed bid for Trident Television until the Department of Trade decides whether to refer it to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

CHINA DEAL

China has agreed to buy two British Vosper Thornycroft Havera-rafts at a special cost of about £1.5m for use on the Yangzi river near Wuhan.

STEEL FORECAST

Steel consumption in Western industrialized countries in 1983 is likely to be 400 billion tonnes 6.2 per cent lower than its earlier estimate, according to the Brussels based International Iron and Steel Institution.

BNAK CHIEF

Mr Ahti Kariainen, the governor of the Bank of Finland, has been relieved of his duties with immediate effect, according to an official announcement.

MONEY GROWTH

Monetary expansion in West Germany, as measured by the Central Bank money stock, slowed in April but remained above the four to seven per cent target range. Money growth in the first four months of 1983 was below an annual rate of 10 1/2 per cent after 11 1/2 per cent in the first quarter.

JAPAN BANKRUPTCIES

Corporate bankruptcies in Japan totalled 1,497 in April, edging up 0.8 per cent from 1,485 a year earlier, according to a private credit research agency in Tokyo Friday. April's rise marked the fourth straight month of year-on-year gains, the agency said.

WALL STREET

Stocks move ahead

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Stocks were broadly higher in active trading yesterday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up about four points at 1,218, while advances were nearly two-to-one ahead of declines.

US Steel was up 1/2 at 24 1/2. International Business Machines was up 1/2 to 115 1/2. Mobil was up 1/2 at 30 1/2. General Electric was up 1/2 at 109 1/2. Eastman Kodak was up 1/2 at 75 1/2. Honeywell was up 1/2 at 123 1/2. General Motors was up 1/2 at 68 1/2. Ford was up 1/2 at 49 1/2. Chrysler was up 1/2 at 26 1/2. American Brands was up 1/2 at 54 1/2. American Express was up 1/2 to 68 1/2.

Texas Instruments at 150 1/2 was down 1/2. Lockheed at 115 1/2 was up 1/2. Humana at 57 1/2 was down 1/2. Federal Express at 80 was up 1/2. Union Pacific at 57 1/2 was down 1/2. Procter and Gamble at 57 1/2 was up 1/2. Digital Equipment at 114 1/2 was up 1/2.

Mr Eldon R Grimm senior vice-president at BTR Wilson, said: "The market looks firm here. The institutions are nibbling but they are not rushing to buy stocks and the leadership rotation continues."

Government securities prices were higher after it was announced that the producer price index last month fell 0.1 per cent, while industrial production rose a larger-than-expected 2.1 per cent.

In moderate trading government coupon securities were firmer with short-term issues up 2/32 and coupons maturing in three to ten years 3/32 to 6/32 higher. The when-issued 10 per cent long bond due in 2012 was up 1/32 at 100 4/32 bid.

Reactions to the drop in producer prices and the stability of federal funds at a relatively weak 8 3/8 per cent, money market rates were mostly five base points lower. Trading was active although there was little retail participation.

Downward movement in the municipal dollar bond market was halted temporarily after the reports that producer prices declined, but Muni's were still down about 1/8 to 3/8 point in light trading.

Share prices

Owing to technical problems we have been unable to publish the most recent prices table and closing share exchange prices. Normal coverage will resume on Monday.

Electronics fund to be launched

Robert Fleming & Co, the merchant bank, is launching an electronics investment company, Murray Electronics, on the stock market later this month.

The company, which has sprung from an existing investment company, Murray Technology Investments, will specialise in taking substantial minority stakes of between £750,000 and £3m in electronics companies which have yet to gain a full listing.

Mr Ross Peters, an electronics industry expert and a director of the company, said that the aim would be to guide companies towards a full listing within two years of making an investment. He said that the new company is looking for compound growth of between 30 and 40 per cent a year within the next two years.

Investors are given a warning that many of the companies in which Murray Electronics invests will be exposed to the risks of changes in technology. However, Mr Peters said that it was not the company's intention to invest more than 10 per cent of its investment fund in any one company.

Fleming is offering 30 million shares for sale at £1 each on Monday morning. About two-thirds of the shares have already been placed with leading institutions and dealings begin on May 25.

Six rigs drilling by next year

BP expects to have as many as six rigs drilling in China's offshore waters by next year, reflecting the high quality of the acreage which it has just been awarded by the Chinese Government.

On Tuesday the consortium which BP leads became the first western group to be awarded licences since the Chinese invited bids for a vast swathe of its offshore area last year.

The company, whose chairman, Mr Peter Walters, has spent the last week in Peking, is making no attempt to play down its belief that it has won the cream of the available acreage, particularly in the South China Sea.

Its four licences there cover some 10,000 square kilometres, and are all in relatively shallow water lying to the south and south west of Hongkong and the Pearl River.

Of the acreage on offer in the Pearl River Basin, the BP group

Regan confirms rejection of second Bretton Woods

IMF names de Larosiere for new term as debt problems grow

By Bailey Morris, Washington, and Michael Prest

M Jacques de Larosiere has been reappointed to another five-year term as managing director of the International Monetary Fund in a move which had been widely expected.

The 53-year-old Frenchman first came to Washington in 1978 when he promoted more flexible lending policies by the fund in addition to longer loans than had been traditional. In addition, he made it quite clear that his top priority as head of the Fund would be to promote strong anti-inflationary policies.

In announcing his reappointment, the IMF board of executive directors, which includes representatives from the 146 member nations, said M de Larosiere would be named to another five-year term when his present one expires on June 16.

Over the last year, M De Larosiere, who formerly served



Regan: "no" to Mitterrand



De Larosiere five-year term

as director of the French Treasury, has received high marks for his handling of the international debt crisis. He is widely credited with orchestrating timely, workable emergency rescue packages for debt-ridden Third World countries close to default and for persuading commercial banks to continue lending to these countries.

The IMF is charged with the task of making short-term loans to countries with balance-of-payments problems and, in this role, imposes strict economic conditions designed to restore financial health to these nations.

Mr Donald Regan, the United States Treasury Secretary, yesterday poured cold water over the suggestion earlier in the week by President Mitterrand that another Bretton Woods conference be called to reorganize the world's monetary system.

But Mr Regan tried to reassure financial markets anxious about Brazil's apparently deteriorating circumstances. He did not think that Brazil would default, although he admitted that he faced a serious financial problem.

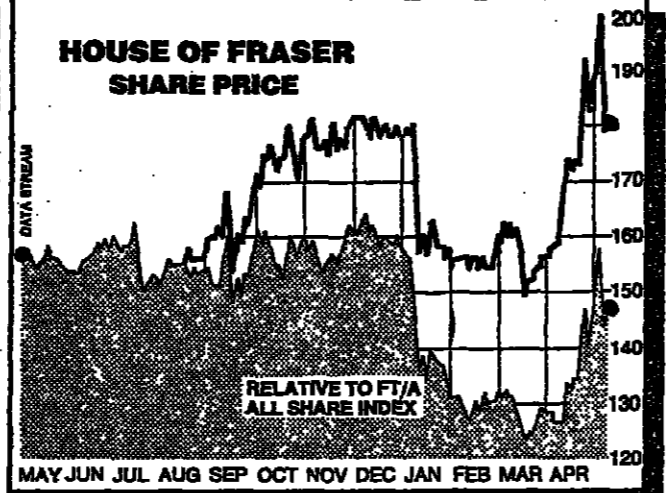
Mr Regan said: "I think we're not ready for Bretton Woods No 2 as yet. I think it's going to require quite a bit of discussion and quite a bit of arranging before you would ever hold such a conference."

He believed that an economic recovery was needed before there could be discussion about the currency system. Brazil is thought to be

between \$700m and \$800m behind in debt repayments. The country's obligations are estimated to total almost \$90,000m.

For the moment, however, Argentina appears to be paying arrears of interest due on its public sector debt in March. The central bank is expected soon to present new proposals for refinancing by issuing promissory notes for \$4,600m of private debt. This will open the way for foreign banks to make a \$1,500m loan.

In Washington, the American Government said that it had not participated in a \$150m bridging loan which the Bank for International Settlements, the bankers' central bank, was reported to have made to Chile. A \$1,300m syndicated bank loan is supposed to be available to Chile from the beginning of July.



Army & Navy to close main store

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

House of Fraser's loss-making Army & Navy store in Victoria Street, London - a landmark since 1871 - is to go. But at the same time, the newer additional Army & Navy at its back in Howick Place, is to be expanded.

About 80,000 square feet of selling area will be lost in the Victoria Street store, and 20,000 square feet added to the 60,000 in Howick Street.

Five hundred people employed in the two stores and jobs will go. But because the changeover could take some time, perhaps a year, natural wastage, early retirement and offers of alternative employment in other House of Fraser stores could account for much of the job losses, says House of Fraser.

Application is being made to Westminster City Council, with the permission of the landlords, Electricity Supply Nominees, for planning permission to change the Victoria Street store to offices, with shops on the ground floor and basement. House of Fraser has a long lease but with five-year rent reviews.

In slimming the Army & Navy operation at Victoria Street, House of Fraser will be trying to repeat the loss-cutting operation taking place at Barkers of Kensington. There annual trading losses of up to £2m should be turned round to a profit this year, according to Mr Bill Crossan, deputy chairman and managing director of House of Fraser.

In the five years since the Howick Place outlet was added, the smallest annual loss at Victoria Street was £400,000. Last year, turnover was £19.3m. When House of Fraser took over Army & Navy - now a chain of 20 stores - there was already a commitment to opening the Howick Place store.

A special problem at Victoria Street is that Saturday trading is comparatively light. In most House of Fraser stores a third of the weekly trade is done on Saturdays but at Victoria Street, Mr Crossan said, the proportion is "nothing like that".

Professor Roland Smith, House of Fraser chairman, said yesterday: "Whilst everyone has worked very hard in the past 18 months to reduce the store losses, we are still nowhere near making an acceptable return on our investment."

Wolverhampton raises profits by 14 pc

By Our Financial Staff

Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, which is bidding £26m for Davenport Brewery (Holdings), yesterday announced a 14.3 per cent increase in pretax profits to £5.5m for the six months ending March 31.

Mr Edwin Thompson, chairman, said the announcement of the results was bought forward by two weeks to assure shareholders that the company was making steady progress, despite the recession.

Turnover was up by 9.2 per cent to £41.6m over the six months after strenuous efforts by the company to seek a wider distribution of its products through the free trade and a continuing programme of refurbishment in the group's 700 tied houses.

The board is recommending an increased interim dividend of 2.3p, against 1.8p at the same stage last year, and promises a total payment of not less than 6.75p for the year.

Mortgage rate warning

By Lorna Bourke

Building societies were accused yesterday of bowing to political considerations and artificially holding down the mortgage rate until after the election.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, Shadow Environment Secretary, said: "It is all being carefully held back until after the election, but once that is safely out of the way, homeowners' monthly payments will go up again."

Earlier in the day, Mr Richard Weir, secretary general of the Building Societies' Association, confirmed that a change in home loan rates before the election was unlikely.

The Building Societies' Association Council is due to meet during election week and would normally announce any rate changes on Friday June 10, the day after polling.

The societies say that it would make no sense to change the rate while there were so many economic unknowns.

Societies have been under pressure in recent months with leading running at £1,500m a month, requiring a cash inflow of £700m a month.

United raises Benn stakes to £15m

By Jonathan Clare

United Newspapers has raised the stakes in the battle for control of Benn Brothers, the specialist publishers, with a revised offer which it hopes will knock Extel, the rival bidder, out of the running.

The new terms value Benn at £15m and are underpinned by a much-improved cash offer which has been underwritten by Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank, and W Greenall, the stockbroker.

The new terms are the equivalent of 206 1/2p per Benn share, against Extel's offer of 186p per share which itself topped United's first offer of 149p.

The new cash offer is worth 197.2p, against the first cash alternative of 143.5p - which was so low it ceased to be relevant to the bid.

Yesterday Mr Alan Brooker, Extel's chairman said he was considering what to do and expects to make a statement next week. Extel is at present only offering shares with no cash alternative.

The Extel offer, however, has already been recommended by the Benn board. Now Mr Malcolm Lowe, the chairman, is asking shareholders to wait while the board looks at the alternatives though he acknowledges that the new United offer is strong.

He said: "We're not out hunting for white knights. Shareholders are now looking at two offers, one of which has been revised already. Benn's recommendation was not just on price but also the fit between the two groups."

United's publications division makes £900,000 profit on sales of £6m; Benn makes about £1m on sales of £16m. United believes that its national marketing skills could quickly give Benn the margins it is achieving.

It could probably squeeze £2.5m out of Benn within two or three years. But it is unlikely to engage much more in the present auction if Extel replies with what United regards as unrealistic terms.

So far United has support from 14.9 per cent of the shareholders, but most of this represents the 13 per cent stake held by Mr Timothy Benn, ousted from the board in December. Extel, which had talked to Benn about a bid before the United approach, has nearly 20 per cent.

Investors' Notebook, page 12

What happened to your £1,000 over the last 9 years? £13,390

£1,000 invested at the launch of the Perpetual Group Growth Fund on 11th September, 1974 would now be worth £13,390, a gain of 1239% compared to a rise of 227% in the FT Ordinary Index, 195% in the rate of inflation and 97% in a Building Society Share Account.

The Growth Fund has out-performed all other unit trusts for capital growth for the period since it was launched to 5th May 1983. The aim of the Fund is maximum capital growth.

For your guidance the unit offer price on 5th May, 1983 was 133.9p. The estimated current gross yield is 2.03% p.a. Remember the price of units, and the income from them, can go down as well as up.

THREE SOUND REASONS FOR INVESTING WITH PERPETUAL

1. TRACK RECORD - Past performance does not guarantee future results but it is a useful guide to the ability of the managers. Units in Perpetual Group Growth Fund have risen by 1239% in under 9 years, in the Income Fund by 79.8% in under 4 years and in the Worldwide Recovery Fund by 51% in under 18 months.

2. INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY - Perpetual manage only three authorised unit trusts and the managers invest in whatever part of the world, in whatever sector of industry and commerce and in whatever companies they consider the prospects for growth are the greatest. Investment management is not restricted to specialist sectors.

3. NO CAPITAL GAINS TAX - When switching investments between international markets, investors may face a liability to Capital Gains Tax when realising gains. However, because the Growth Fund is an authorised unit trust it has no liability to Capital Gains Tax and is able to capitalise on its international philosophy since funds that might otherwise have been used to meet Capital Gains Tax remain invested on a compounding basis.

... and, among the smaller groups, Perpetual continues to show its staying power in achieving a consistently above-average performance, ...

The Sunday Telegraph - January 2, 1983

GENERAL INFORMATION - A contract note will be issued on the relevant Subscription Day (Thursday) and certificates will be forwarded within 12 weeks.

November each year a statement showing the net marketed income and the amount of income tax deducted. An initial management charge of 5.25% on the assets (equivalent to 5% of the issue price) is included in the price of the units. A small rounding up charge may be included in the offer price up to a maximum of 1/4p or 1.25p per unit whichever is the less. Out of these the Managers will pay commission to authorised agents; rates are available on request. There is an annual charge of 1% (10% of the value of the Fund as at 30th September in each year which will be deducted from the income of the Fund.

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APPLICATION FOR UNITS IN PERPETUAL GROUP GROWTH FUND. Fill in the coupon and send it now to: Perpetual Unit Trust Management Ltd, 48 Hart Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 2AZ. Tel: Henley-on-Thames (04912) 6888. Registered No. 1154021.

FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

Tax discretion

Changes in the rules for discretionary trusts mean that it is possible to make considerable tax savings, say accountants, Dearden Farrow. Their new booklet *Use Your Discretion* explains the use of discretionary trusts in family financial planning.

"When the overall effect of the new tax regime is fully appreciated, it will be found that the use of discretionary trusts can confer substantial Capital Transfer Tax advantages," the accountants say.

Income from Gold

Monthly income is now obtainable from the highly competitive Cheltenham Gold account from Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society.

An annual return of 7.5 per cent net of basic rate tax is possible if the income is not withdrawn but added to the original investment.

There is no notice of withdrawal or penalties and the account operates like an ordinary share account. The minimum investment is £5,000. If the balance falls below that amount, the ordinary share rate of 6.25 per cent is paid.

Health warning

Nine out of 12 travel agents gave customers incorrect or inaccurate advice on health requirements in the country to be visited, according to a survey by *Which?* magazine.

A *Which?* Inspector visited 12 travel agencies in central London for medical advice on a forthcoming holiday to Morocco and concluded that the advice he was given was "totally inadequate".

"It seems clear that there should be a tightening up of the aspect of the Association of British Travel Agents' Code of Conduct which states only that travel agents shall advise health requirements for the journey to undertake," says *Which?*

Helping handbook

From the publishers of the *Hambro Tax Guide*, generally acknowledged to be the best taxman's guide to taxation, comes the latest offering, the *Allied Hambro Investment Guide*.

It covers everything from investments

in shares, unit trusts, National Savings, property, Government Securities and a host of less well known investment media.

There are sections on general investment policy, specialist advice for overseas investors, chapters on taxation and the practicalities of buying and selling securities. The guide covers virtually every possible way of investing money. The *Allied Hambro Investment Guide 1983*, edited by Michael Sayers, MA, Solicitor, price £5.95, published by Oyst Longman.

Miras benefit

WHATEVER the grouses about Miras (mortgage interest relief at source) there is one group of housebuyers who will not hear a bad word said about it.

The self-employed with loans below £25,000 used to have to wait for their tax relief on mortgage interest until they filed their returns - in some cases up to 18 months after the end of the tax year. Now, they get their tax relief instantly, making payments net of basic rate tax relief to the building society.

Growth assured

A guaranteed growth bond paying 8.5 per cent net of basic rate tax is on offer from Capital Life Assurance. Minimum investment is £2,000 which will grow to £3,000 after five years and £4,528 after 10 years. Investors with £10,000 or more can obtain income by arranging a series of bonds maturing in successive years and the return is still 8.5 per cent net of basic rate tax. This is equivalent to a before tax return of 12.14 per cent.

Unit trust guide

Hardly a week passes without a new unit trust being launched and the light green cover of the total of over 500 has become an increasingly hazardous business. For those who like to take an active interest in their investments, the latest edition of the *Unit Trust Year Book*

is a must. It gives details of all management groups with track records of the individual trusts and a mass of other useful information. Investors can identify the type and aim of the trust, its principle holdings and geographical distribution. The *Unit Trust Year Book 1983*, published by Financial Times Business Publishing, price £15 (£13.50 plus £1.50 post and packing).

Offshore launch

Fund manager Framlington has launched an offshore income and growth fund investing in US equities (as well as other foreign markets) and in US and Japanese Euro-dollar convertibles.

The aim is to give investors a balance between income and growth with exposure to overseas equity markets. The estimated yield will be 4 per cent and the minimum investment is £500.

£5,000 issue

There must be times when National Savings marketing people tear their hair out over the inefficiency of the Post Office. Maximum investment in National Savings

Certificate 25th issue was increased from £2,500 to £5,000 on April 11, over a month ago. Last week's Family Money article on using National Savings Certificates to avoid the drawback of age relief prompted a flood of letters from would-be investors all of whom had been into their local Post Office to buy some more 25th issue certificates, only to be handed a leaflet which stated that

For the family

Save & Prosper is the latest insurer to launch a family capital trust for those anxious to mitigate a potential capital transfer tax (CTT) liability.

There are now about a dozen of these CTT avoidance vehicles on the market and all work on broadly similar lines. Free capital is invested in a unit-linked bond (or series of bonds) which is held within a trust. By making use of loans and the annual exemptions for CTT, the value of the money invested gradually becomes free of CTT and can be passed on to children or other relatives without incurring any tax.

In addition, the money can be returned to the original investor should the need arise.

Mortgages

Beware the small print on your endowment policy

DON'T WORRY YOURSELF - I SHALL BE THE 'LAST SURVIVOR' - EVEN IF IT KILLS ME!



Homebuyers who have recently switched to the endowment method of repaying a mortgage should check their insurance policies. If you have bought an endowment policy on a "joint-life" basis, you could have been sold the wrong policy.

Financial Consultant Towry Law reports cases of clients being sold joint-life endowments linked to a home loan on what is known as a "last survivor" basis, rather than a "first death". This means that the insurance money is paid out only when the second partner dies - no use at all to a married couple who will want the mortgage paid off on the death of the first partner.

With thousands of homebuyers switching to the endowment method of repaying their loans, many could be affected by this "last survivor" clause.

"This is a very good example of what appears to be very bad advice being given by an unqualified intermediary," commented Mr Michael Morris, director-general of the British Insurance Brokers Association.

"This is one of the reasons why we are most anxious that people get proper professional advice before switching to the insurance method of repayment, and we would encourage them to consult a qualified professional."

He recommends that anyone who has an endowment-linked home loan with the insurance policy written on a "joint-life" basis should check the policy to make sure that it pays out on the "first death".

One insurance broker reckons that the situation has come about because the building societies do not really

understand insurance. "Clients have probably obtained an insurance quote from a broker and the building society has then said that it can give a more competitive quote. By switching the cover from 'first death' to 'last survivor' the building society would be able to undercut the brokers." Not unnaturally he did not want to be named.

But are "joint-life" policies a good idea anyway? Many financial advisers believe not, pointing to the complications that can arise on divorce.

"With one in three marriages ending in divorce it makes more sense to have separate policies," says Mr John McKinley of financial consultants Noble Lowndes. He believes that the endowment policy should be written on the life of the main breadwinner - usually the husband - with a term, or convertible term policy to cover the wife. "But it is difficult to persuade people to buy two policies when they think they need only one," he says.

On divorce the family home is often sold and a joint life policy will cause complications. It will have to be made "paid up" in which case cash already paid on it will be frozen until the maturity date 25 years ahead, or cashed in, in which case policyholders usually get a deal, or transferred to one or other of the partners - which can be tricky, when two people are haggling about money.

All the leading building societies appear to offer "first death" policies to homebuyers wanting a joint-life endowment, but when questioned, some were not at all clear initially which they were offering.

Halifax has homebuyers swapping to endowment loans at a rate of 450 a day compared with only 90 a week this time last year. Abbey National has switched over 30,000 borrowers into insurance-linked loans - earning itself something like £6m in insurance commissions along the way. Nationwide reports a similar level of switching with around 27,000 borrowers moving over to an endowment-linked loan.

With activity in the market at this level, it is quite possible that the Towry Law clients with the wrong "last survivor" type policy are simply mistakes. But it does raise the question of what will happen to those homebuyers who have been sold the wrong kind of policy and do not have an insurance expert like Towry Law to point this out to them. It will only be when the husband or wife dies that it will become apparent that they have got the wrong kind of cover.

A registered insurance broker who made such a mistake would no doubt be sued for negligence and his professional indemnity policy would come into force to reimburse the client and pay off the mortgage. It might be much more difficult to prove negligence against a building society which does not hold itself out to be an insurance expert.

Deposit schemes

High interest

No wonder that the banks and building societies are worried about keeping their depositors. High interest accounts are now multiplying everywhere. The unit trust managers Britannia last week announced a link-up with the discount house Cater Allen, to produce an account paying more than 10 per cent and providing a monthly income and a cheque book.

Britannia is hoping to attract about £20m in the first couple of months, and if the success of Save & Prosper's similar scheme is anything to go by which it has attracted in more than £150m since January, it will do so easily.

These schemes give high returns by pooling the funds

that come in and investing them at money market.

Depositors in four of the funds, those run by Tyndall, Save & Prosper, Aitken Home and Britannia, can make withdrawals by cheque.

But, as the table also indicates, those returns are not necessarily all that they seem. The problem is that there is no agreed method of quoting the rate of interest.

By law almost anyone who lends money, the building societies being the main exception, is obliged to quote the rate charged on a standard basis, so that consumers can make an informed comparison. It is time that the obligation was extended to borrowers.

Name	Minimum investment	Withdrawals	Interest (net) %	Interest (gross) %	Special features
Aitken Home Monthly Income Account	£2,500	Cheque book Minimum withdrawal £500	10.25	10.74	Interest credited monthly. Monthly income facility. Interest credited monthly. Monthly income on £5,000 plus interest credited daily.
Britannia High Int. Current Account	£2,500	Cheque book Minimum withdrawal £250	10.00	10.47	Interest credited daily. Monthly income on £5,000 plus interest credited daily.
Malvern Money Fund	£5,000	On demand. Minimum withdrawal £500	9.9	10.28	Interest credited daily. Monthly income on £5,000 plus interest paid half yearly.
Save & Prosper High Interest Bank Account	£2,500	Cheque book Minimum withdrawal £250	9.85	10.15	Interest credited daily. Monthly income on £5,000 plus interest paid half yearly.
Schroder Wiggs Special Deposit Fund	£2,500	7 days notice. Minimum withdrawal £1,000	9.78	10.1	Interest paid half yearly.
Senco 7-day fund	£1,000	Minimum withdrawal £500	9.84	10.07	Interest credited half yearly.
Tudor & Riley Call fund	£10,000	On demand. Minimum withdrawal £1,000	10.18	10.50	Interest credited half yearly.
7-day fund	£2,500	Minimum withdrawal £1,000	10.04	10.35	Interest credited half yearly.
Tyndall Money Fund	£2,500	Cheque book. Minimum withdrawal £500	10.00	10.38	Interest credited quarterly.
UDT Average rate scheme	£5,000	7 days notice. Minimum withdrawal £1,000	9.875	10.25	Interest paid or credited quarterly.
Western Trust Money Mkt Acct.	£10,000	1 month's notice	9.81	10.27	Interest credited monthly.

THE CAPITAL GROWTH MANIFESTO

Why TSB's Selected Opportunities should get your vote this weekend

When we launched the TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust in 1982, we knew we were taking a fresh approach to investment management.

Now, with a year behind us, we've proved it works.

In a period when the FT Actuaries All-Share Index has risen by 27%, the value of Income Units in the TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust has risen by 32.4%.

For a trust with capital growth as its objective, this performance vindicates our unusual approach.

The imaginative alternative

From the outset, our Investment Managers took the view that, to create a unit trust with an exceptional potential for capital growth, they needed a three pronged approach to investment.

Not only would they select medium and long term growth shares, but short term prospects too.

This way our investors would get the best from each of the various shares, sectors and markets, at any given time.

The long term strategy

With a view to the future, the Managers' aim is to select young companies who look destined to achieve exceptional growth.

Often, success will take time to come through. But, prudently chosen, shares in these companies will form a solid foundation for the future.

In the last year, the trust's Managers have made investments in the Unlisted Securities Market where many of the right types of company can be found.

The medium term view

At any time, in recession or recovery, there will be some companies whose medium term prospects look good.

The secret lies in buying - and selling - the right ones at the right time.

This is where our Investment Managers excel. Their current share selections reflect the fact that, industrial and economic life being cyclical, success lies in holding shares whose cycle is on the upturn now, such as those in the engineering and financial sectors.

Short term tactics

Looking for the maximum capital growth, our Investment Managers believe that short term market opportunities cannot be overlooked.

The profits here - which can result from takeover situations, rights issues or new



company flotations - inject a day-to-day potential which, cleverly managed, can significantly increase the trust's overall capital growth.

Options for the future

In the past year our Investment Managers have developed their three pronged approach to good effect. Investments have been made mainly in the UK, and certain selected opportunities have been taken in overseas markets.

And to broaden the opportunities open to the trust still further, they have the right to deal in Traded Options (subject to final approval from the Department of Trade).

All in all, we believe the Trust's future outlook is excellent.

The Managers behind this success

Running the TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust calls for special investment management skills.

Central Trustee Savings Bank Limited, the Investment Managers of this trust, have a wealth of experience in the investment field.

Their performance across the board, in a variety of markets, has played its part in

securing our position as one of the country's leading unit trust groups.

They recommend this trust for long term capital appreciation.

Anniversary offer

The TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust is now one year old.

As a special offer to today's investors, and at our expense, we're giving away an Anniversary Bonus of 2% more units with every purchase made by Friday, 27th May 1983.

For your guidance, offer prices on May 12th were: Accumulation Units 34.0p, Income Units 33.1p. The estimated gross yield on that date was 13.05%.

Remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. You should regard your investment as being a medium to long term one.

Time to invest now

To invest in the TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust - and take advantage of our special Anniversary Bonus - simply complete the coupon below and return it to us, with your cheque, made payable to TSB Unit Trusts Limited.

We think you'll be glad you elected to invest in this unique unit trust and its potentially rewarding future.

THE THINGS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

The Managers of the TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust are TSB Unit Trusts Limited who are members of the Unit Trust Association. The Investment Managers are Central Trustee Savings Bank Limited and the Trustee is General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation plc.

Units in the Trust may be bought and sold on any business day. Their prices and yields will be quoted in the Financial Times and other leading newspapers and may also be obtained from any branch of the TSB.

The initial management charge on every purchase of units is 5%, out of which remuneration is paid to qualified intermediaries. (Rates are available on request.) A monthly management charge of 1/10th of 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the Trust is deducted from the Trust's income. (The Trust Deed allows for a maximum charge of 1/10th of 1% per month; the Managers will give unit holders at least 3 months' written notice of any change.)

Net income is paid out on May 6 and November 6 each year.

We offer favourable exchange terms to investors who already hold stocks and shares. Details are available on request.

TSB Unit Trusts Limited is a subsidiary of TSB Trust Company Limited and a member of the TSB Group.

Its registered office is at Keens House, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1PG. The company is registered in England and Wales, number 162925.

TSB SELECTED OPPORTUNITIES UNIT TRUST

Bonus Application Form valid only until Friday, 27th May 1983

To: Andrew Ferguson, TSB Unit Trusts Limited, Keens House, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1PG Telephone (0264) 62188.

I/We wish to invest £ (min £250) in the TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust, at the price ruling on the day of receipt of this application.

As a general rule, Accumulation Units, with income reinvested, will be issued to investors. If you would prefer Income Units, with income paid out half-yearly, please tick here:

A bonus allocation of 2% of units will be made to those investing through this offer before 27th May 1983. (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms (Forename) (Surname)

Address

Post Code Signature (s) Date

In the case of joint applications, all applicants must sign and attach their names and addresses on a separate sheet of paper.

I/We would also like details of your Share Exchange facilities. This offer is open only to investors who are 18 years of age or over. It is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland. T.14.5

Australia - Land of Opportunity?

As the western world emerges slowly from the serious effects of recession, one stock market has yet to show a significant rise - Australia. The major problem has centred on political uncertainty, but now that Robert Hawke is firmly established as Prime Minister, is the scene set for a major surge in the market there? And can British investors turn this situation into profit for themselves?

These are just some of the questions discussed in the latest edition of the Julian Gibbs Investment Action Report. Among others are the detailed implications of the Budget, special discounts on top performing unit trusts and where you can get the best deal on interest-only investments.

For your FREE copy (normal price £2), simply complete and return the coupon without delay.

To: Julian Gibbs Associates Limited. 73AA 14/5
A member of the Reed Steenhouse Group.
FREEPOST, London SW1W 0BR (no stamp required).
Tel: London: 01-730 8221, Aberdeen: 0224 640460, Bristol: 0272 294531, Edinburgh: 031-225 9528, Glasgow: 041-248 5076, Leeds: 0532 506116, Manchester: 061-831 7191.
Please send me your latest Investment Action Report - and a Confidential Investment Brief.

Name _____
Address _____
County _____ Tel. No. _____
Present Income £ _____ Date of Birth _____ Tax Rate _____
Lump sum amount available for investment £ _____ per year/month
Amount available for regular saving £ _____ per year/month

JULIAN GIBBS ASSOCIATES

TSB UNIT TRUSTS

You've always known the TSB as one of the big high street banks, but it may come as a surprise to learn that TSB Unit Trusts are one of Britain's largest unit trust groups. At present, the funds we manage total over £340 million, spread across eight unit trusts. We are also one of the most successful groups. Indeed, figures prepared by *Financial Services* in March 1983 showed that, among 15 leading groups, we've outperformed the average in every one of the last ten years, coming top in three of them and second in five.

TSB

FAMILY MONEY

Life cover

Protecting yourself on health questions

Breadwinners with dependants need considerable sums of life insurance if the family is to be adequately provided for. A rough rule of thumb guide is a sum assured of five times your gross earnings. A married man with wife and children earning £15,000 ought to have convertible term cover (if he cannot afford whole life) of at least £75,000.

At this sort of level you might, however, face some tough questioning on the health side. If applying for life insurance for the first time it pays to make several applications simultaneously to say three or four different life companies.

One of the nasty questions on all insurance proposal forms usually asks whether or not you have been turned down or "rated" by any other insurance company. If you have, you will no doubt be on the Life Offices Association's black list and it will be more difficult (and possibly more expensive) to get life cover.

If you apply simultaneously to three or four companies, you can honestly answer that you have not been turned down by any other insurer, and you give yourself several chances of obtaining cover without any difficulties over health.

Once you are on the Life Offices Association black list it is impossible to get yourself removed, and any insurer to whom you apply for life cover will be on notice that you have been turned down by another life office. The LOA claims that reputable insurers will still investigate and generally be prepared to give you a quote, but it is better to avoid getting on the list in the first place, if possible.

One way for those with a bad health track record to obtain cover is to take up the offer of "no medical" insurance offered by most life offices on endowments taken out in conjunction with a home loan. Most building societies are offering "no-cost, no medical requirements" cover for homebuyers switching to the endowment method of repayment and it is worth considering.

Housing

Hidden pitfalls of joint ownership

A social worker, a student, a lawyer, an architect and a teacher are putting the final touches to their renovation of an impressive Georgian listed house in Islington, London, which they hope to sell in the autumn for about £120,000.

All men in their late 20s, the five joint-owners, friends before they started on this venture, have lived in the house for about five years and its sale should bring substantial returns on their investment.

The Cross Street household is a good example of the growing number of young people who are prepared to buy, communally, large run-down properties and renovate them in order to get a first foot on the property-owning ladder. Normans, the London estate agent, sees this as a new trend in the housing market.

The attractions are obvious. Buy a large property - too big and too dilapidated for the family buyer - and you will get much more for your money than by competing at the congested bottom end of the market.

The snags are less apparent. But group ownership, even among the best of friends, brings its own problems, legal financial and social.

Despite the high value of the house, the whole project has been funded on the group's modest salaries with a series of mortgages and loans. The group found that both banks and building societies are sympathetic to group purchase if the venture seems realistic and applications are backed with extensive financial estimates and budget plans.

The hard grind of trying to raise the necessary funds showed that, while wary of the unconventional, both banks and building societies are prepared to lend on multiple ownership properties.

The Abbey National lent £15,000 to cover purchase of the initial lease, and preliminary building costs on the condition that one of the parents put up the freehold on his house as collateral.

According to the consortium, the idea was so new to the Abbey that the scheme was discussed at board level before the society could work out a policy for such proposals. Once convinced, the society soon



Working together: (From left) Billy Hinshelwood, Mike Cook and Fergus Donaldson

became cooperative and lent a further £37,000 last year to cover purchase of the freehold and renovation work.

The National Westminster Bank was not so flexible. It took six months of negotiation, according to one of the partners, to get the local branch manager to fork out £5,000 at the early stages. And this was only agreed on the understanding that a building society was also involved. The rest of the funds came from small personal loans, savings and out of income.

Although the local council provided a small grant towards the costs, developments in other areas might qualify for quite sizable grants and it is certainly worth pursuing this possibility if contemplating a similar venture.

The great advantage of renovating property is that the initial payment is usually low with the bulk of the money being spread over the time it takes to restore the property.

This Islington property cost £6,000 five years ago for a short lease with the understanding that the members of the group could eventually buy the freehold. They did so three months ago for £18,000.

The big snag was its condition. According to lawyer Mr Billy Hinshelwood, it was derelict, the roof was rotten, no electricity, no plumbing and washing meant visiting friends in order to take a bath.

Since the group has invested about £60,000 and countless hours of work to bring the house to its present standard.

As it is largely this do-it-yourself work that will boost the eventual market value of a renovated property, any communal property consortium needs to ensure that its members are committed.

The partners got round this by drawing up a trust deed putting the agreement into legal black and white to avoid bickering at a later stage.

Firstly, they undertook to live together in the house for five years. Anyone leaving the house before this period, as one did, would just get back the money he had put in - plus an extra 3 per cent payable after six months.

The agreement also outlined how the money from the sale will be split up. Mr Hinshelwood considered that this was the most important aspect of the purchase but pointed out that it was difficult to achieve a fair distribution.

While it is easy enough to tot up how much money has been contributed, it is impossible to quantify the exact work output of each partner in terms of physical work, planning, organization and all the other tasks that go into a venture of this kind.

But if one partner shirks out every weekend, while everyone else works from dawn to dusk, he should receive less money. The consortium tried without success to keep time-sheets but has now opted for a novel way of distributing the profits.

Mr Hinshelwood said that when the house was sold the first step will be to deduct the outstanding mortgages and debt to leave a net profit. Fifty per cent of the remaining sum would then be split equally, but the other 50 per cent will be divided according to how much of a contribution each feels that each other has put into the project.

The partners then plan to hold a secret ballot whereby each individual will be scored on a range from one to five according to his estimated contribution to the work. The half of the sale price will then be divided on a sliding scale

according to how many points each individual has scored.

Mr Hinshelwood said that over the years they had all formed a good idea of each other's contribution and this system of dividing the money would be as fair as any.

In retrospect, the partners advise any other group contemplating a similar project to work out in advance how much renovation work is likely to be needed and then get all the members of the consortium to commit themselves in writing to undertake a set of work over a given period.

While this partnership is an evident success, group living for any length of time poses obvious social problems. While at Cross Street the trust deed drew up guide-lines against "anti-social" behaviour, the group members admit that they would have had no legal foot to stand on if they had really wanted to rid themselves of one of their number.

The other, and more established method of communal buying, which is established as a significant feature of both town and country property markets, is the splitting up of large houses into individual living units.

According to estate agents Bernard Thorpe inconveniently large country houses, particularly, are selling at about 20 per cent below the expected market value.

But the company warns that although buyers in the London area are ready to live in sections of a large property, the northern market is much more traditional.

The company had found that north of Huntingdon, buyers who are on the whole unused to living in flats place great store on detached dwellings and partnerships contemplating converting houses outside the London area might find it hard to achieve a reasonable market price.

In addition, unless the conversion provides for self contained living units with privacy and separate access, the subsequent selling price is likely to be marked down by about 15 per cent at the valuer's discretion.

Patrick Donovan

National insurance

Why pay has been hard hit

Most working women who pay the special married women's stamp will by now have noticed quite a considerable, and possibly unexpected, hole in their pay packets.

The reason is that the lower national insurance contribution they pay was increased substantially in April.

That is not a great deal of money, given that those paying the full stamp may pay more than £21 a week. The most anyone paying the lower stamp has to find is £9.05 a week.

Yet it is a relatively large rise. And the reason is that, at last, those who pay the small stamp may be able to get something in return. For this special low national insurance payment has not, in the past, allowed married women to get any state benefits when they fall sick or become unemployed.

Now, people at work who fall ill can get sick pay from their employers. This takes the place of the sickness benefit paid by the Department of Health and Social Security. Sick pay can last for up to eight weeks a year, and married women paying the small stamp can receive it in the same way as everyone else.

This is the main reason for the extra contribution, but it does not end there. The new sick pay arrangements mean an end to industrial benefit - a weekly payment which anyone injured at work could get whether they were paying national insurance contributions or not.

In its place, you can get state sickness benefit after your sick pay stops, if you are still fit. Normally, to get sickness

benefit you have to have paid a set amount on national insurance contributions, and so married women on the small stamp would not be able to get it.

However, the new arrangements mean that where the illness is caused by injury or accident at work, these women will be able to get sickness benefit without having had to pay the necessary contributions. This is quite a big step forward.

If the illness caused by the work injury continues then you can get invalidity benefit - higher amount than sickness benefit - after you have received sickness benefit for six months. Invalidity benefit, in turn, can run right up to pension age, provided that you continue to be ill as a direct result of the work injury.

None of this could have happened a month ago. Only those paying the full contributions would have been able to get either sickness or invalidity benefit. So, although as a married woman you have to pay out more each week, now at least there is the possibility of getting something worthwhile back should you suffer the misfortune of an injury at work.

If an accident at work results in some permanent disablement - from the loss of a finger to the loss of a limb, for example - then it is possible to get disablement payments on top of any other benefits from the state. These payments can now be made from 15 weeks after the accident, and not 26 weeks as was the case before April this year.

Ian McDonald

Pensions could improve

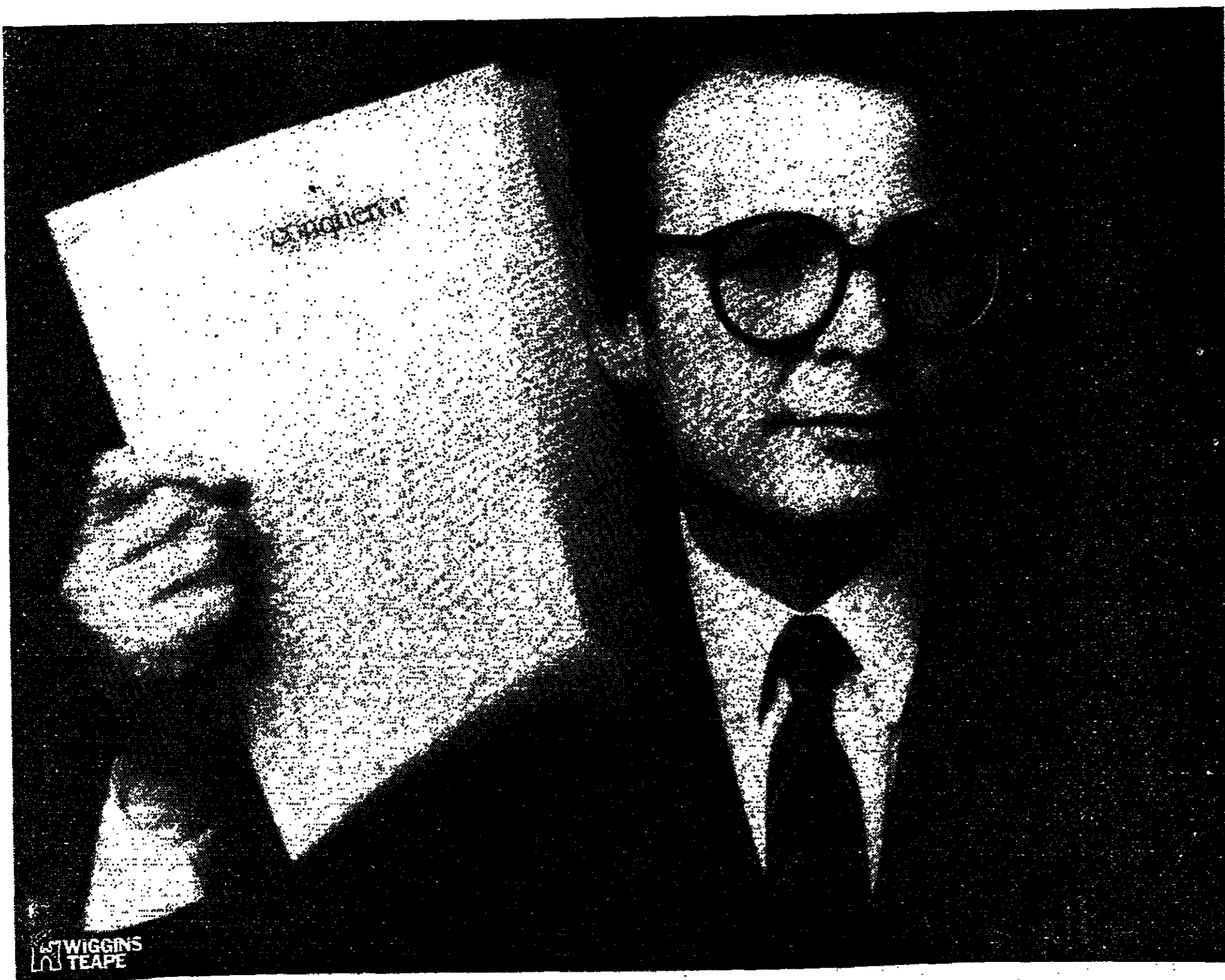
Two recent pension fund reviews confirm what many - including the Centre for Policy Studies - have been saying for some time. Many pension funds are now "overfunded" - that is, they have assets in excess of their liabilities to pay pensions, and could well afford to improve benefits for both "early leavers" and those already receiving their pensions.

The review by consulting actuaries Cubie Wood went so far as to say that many

employers could now afford to index-link pensions.

Yet the likelihood is that these surpluses will not in many cases be used for the benefit of scheme members, but will simply be applied to reducing the employers' contributions to the pension funds in the coming years.

Employers argue that it is simply savings and roundabouts - that in the bad years they have had to pay extra to fund pension benefits.



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Tavaré uses his feet without losing his head

By Richard Streeton

CHELMSFORD: Kent (19) beat Essex (3) by six wickets.

Kent were put on the road to victory by Tavaré, their new captain, who made an accomplished debut with a freedom that would have been unrecognizable to Australian cricketers. Each side forfeited an innings in effort to make up for Thursday's washout. Woolmer and Benson, as well as Tavaré, made significant contributions as Kent reached a target of 321 in four hours and a half with nine balls to spare.

Tavaré has started this season with consistency in-between the showers, but, more importantly, has shown a new awareness not to be dominated by the bowlers. He won Kent's game against Surrey in the Sunday League last weekend with an 82 full of attacking strokes. Yesterday, he again used his feet notably to improvise many strokes without losing any of his orthodoxy or timing.

It was an entertaining and spirited day's cricket, which owed much to the sensible approach of the two captains. Who knows how thankful Kent might be next September for the win points they acquired? Having seen the pools of water on the field on Thursday, it seemed a minor miracle that any play at all was possible yesterday. The run-up at one end was still damp, but, after a 90-minute delay, the match was completed with sunshine vying with passing clouds, and a pessimistic weather forecast proved wrong.

Woolmer and Taylor were unperturbed in the half-hour to



Tavaré: not letting the bowlers dominate

lunch, but afterwards Taylor was leg-before to pringle offering no stroke. Taylor's batting is mostly organized on efficient lines, but his running between the wickets brought one or two fine catches. Pringle had a slight stutter in the middle of his approach run and bowled 16 no-balls in two spells which were an extraordinary mixture of good and bad balls.

Woolmer pushed and drove smoothly on both sides of the wicket and hit Ray East for an effortless straight six. A confident display was ended when he moved out to succumb to Phillip to the on-side and was before. Tavaré became more assertive when joined by Benson and, at 141, he was out. The third-wicket pair started to score at five an over afterwards, and Fletcher dispensed with a slip for his quicker bowlers when Tavaré had the bowling.

Kent needed 102 when the final 20 overs were signalled and 74 from 15 when Tavaré played across the ball once too often against Lever. Tavaré batted two hours, 50 minutes, and hit only four fours. It was

an indication of how he kept his score mounting without undue violence. Kent faltered briefly after he was out, and Lever and Pringle conceded only 13 runs in the next five overs.

Benson got the score moving again before a good ball from Pringle found the bat's edge as the left-hander tentatively pushed forward. Knott's batting is made for these situations and he and Cowdrey, benefiting as the bowlers tired, reduced the target to 26 from five overs, and the end was in sight.

Three days of rain, such as we have just had, may, no play, no spectators means that the weather will be heavy, even if the weather improves for the one-day matches today and tomorrow. I know that the weather is a matter of luck, but I have had some things to think about. The Wagon Works ground is not well equipped to cater for bad weather. It can look splendid with a large crowd cheering on Procter or Lipton, but when it rains, it has few compensations when it rains.

Hammond scored 300 here against Nottinghamshire in 1956. He was the only batsman to score 300 in 12, the lowest championship score, in 1907. Many other deeds of might have been here. But I fear the days of the Wagon Works are numbered, and one day an inclined to think it may be as well.

Wagon works has gone west

By Alan Gibson

Ten years or so ago, there was pressure from supporters in the north of Gloucestershire (who are anxious for the county's headquarters to be transferred there. I never thought anything would come of it, because it would have involved vast alterations to the present ground, more probably a fresh ground elsewhere.

Then Gloucestershire made an arrangement with an insurance company about their Bristol headquarters, which has so far proved to be to the benefit of both, and much improved the facilities there. So talk of a move dropped. The northern cricketers had to be content with 10 days at Cheltenham, on the Collier Ground, in August, and five at Gloucester, in May.

You cannot blame Gloucestershire for the regular cricket headquarters in order, for not making the most use of it possible. When the sun shines, the attendance as at Cheltenham is a good deal better, proportionately to population, than at Bristol but there it is.

The future of the Cheltenham Festival cannot seriously be questioned, but the possibility of a cricketing tradition far beyond the county boundary. But Gloucester is a different matter altogether.

The Wagon Works ground (now known as the Wagon Ground, though the old term is often heard) usually provides a good batting field. The pitch is a good deal better, and it must have the worst scoreboard, and the worst public address system, of any ground on which cricket is annually played.

It has been a long time from the city centre. The Gloucestershire club has to pay about £3,000 to run the Gloucester week-end, and has not got many spectators, for some years they have been wondering whether it is worth it.

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Warwickshire also hit early trouble. They lost their first seven wickets for 85 in the first over, and were reduced to 56 for five. Smith batted through the innings of 216 for six declared. His unbeaten 81, made in 188 minutes, included a six and four fours. Marshall batted for 133 minutes for his 79, which included four boundaries.

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Wilander defused by Noah the explosives expert

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Hamburg

Mats Wilander, who had won 43 consecutive singles matches on European clay over a period of 12 months was beaten 6-4, 7-4 by Yannick Noah in the German championships here yesterday, Friday the 13th. Even more surprising than Wilander's defeat is the presence in the semi-final round of Eric Fromm, aged 24, who was a German amateur star in the 1960s. Today's pairings are Fromm v Noah and José Higueras v Guillermo Vilas. Fromm and Noah occupy places that the seedings suggested would go to Andrei Panatta and Wilander. Fromm, aged 24, is a New Yorker having the best week of his career. He has beaten three men ranked above him: Christopher Mouratoglou, Brian Gottfried, and Balazs Taroczy, who edged Lendl out of the running on Thursday.

Fromm has a score to settle, because he has suffered from tendonitis in the shoulder since he was 17. He has not played since then, but he is still savouring that win over Lendl, still coming down from the clouds, still coming to terms with the fact that he was only the last eight. The man who beat Lendl did not play well enough to beat Fromm.

The Noah-Wilander match was a battle not just as dramatic as their final in Lisbon five weeks ago when Noah had two match points but lost. Wilander said he was not particularly disappointed. "Yannick played very well but I didn't play badly," Wilander could feel encouraged on four counts. One, his game is coming to the boil at the right time. He is a better player than he is usually credited with. He is the end of a long unbeaten run. Three, he was beaten in the same round here last year and three weeks later was champion of France. Four, could Noah have taken a third set?

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Bates achieves new heights

By Richard Eaton

Jeremy Bates, the unseeded British number seven, reached his first \$25,000 final in the tournament sponsored by Perrod at Leonsolent yesterday with yet another triumph over a few consecutive sorries to the net.

Bates achieved to produce a hot streak like this is particularly encouraging because it suggests he can raise his game against higher quality opposition. Bates has been criticised for his lack of consistency but he is a powerful performer on soft surfaces. Now perhaps he may be able to believe in himself.

Consistency is the bedrock of his game. Controlled manoeuvring took him from 2-4 down in the first set against an opponent who might have outlasted him. Bates has been criticised for his lack of consistency but he is a powerful performer on soft surfaces. Now perhaps he may be able to believe in himself.

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Honest Ned Kelly in the clear

By Jenny MacArthur

Sue Fountain won the Trident national women's jumping championship at the Royal Windsor Horse Show yesterday. She was riding the team's big Irish-bred 11-year-old, Ned Kelly, for whom the Edge offered £100,000 in last year. Arthur Fountain, Miss Fountain's father, who leases the horse to JCB, said yesterday he had refused the offer outright. "I wouldn't sell him from underneath her."

Second in the national championship was Claire Rushworth from Cornwall on Ryans Mill, another Irish-bred nine-year-old horse. Third was Sarah Skelton, the wife of the top international show jumper, Nick, on her own horse, Sherwood. The first three all qualify for the Queen Elizabeth II Cup at the Royal International Horse Show in July.

It was touch and go whether the show would be on yesterday but the organisers' decision to go ahead was rewarded by a good, illustrious field which dried out the ground. The only problem was keeping the fences upright. The course builder, Alan Ball, had his work cut out running about the arena and re-erecting fences blown down.

The nine clear rounds in the championship included Kelly Bown a possible Olympic hope, who is one of the British riders competing at the Barcelona Nations Cup meeting next week. She went at a great pace on Foxlight - a little too fast in the second round. Skelton was down re-erecting her to ninth place.

The first to go in the timed jump-off were Sarah Parton on her Abbar, who had two fences down. Mrs Parton's second round produced the first clear round in a time of 39.09 sec. Pam Dunning, whose husband, Lionel, won the big competition here on Wednesday, had a fence down on Promote as did Carol Yardley on Way Out II, a horse formerly ridden by Eileen Fraser.

Miss Fountain then produced a faultless round in 36.43 sec. on Ned Kelly. Caroline Bradley, who won the Trident Fault and Out competition earlier in the day, had one down on Tiramoo. R. B. B. and the last to go, Mrs Rushworth on Ryans Mill, had the third clear round but a time of 37.59 sec made Miss Fountain the clear winner.

"I can't believe it, it's fantastic," said Miss Fountain. "I've never won before and I've been in it for 12 months last year due to a virus."

Trident National Women's Championship: 1, Sue Fountain (Ryans Mill) in 36.43; 2, Caroline Bradley (Tiramoo) in 37.59; 3, Pam Dunning (Promote) in 39.09; 4, R. B. B. (Way Out II) in 40.12; 5, Carol Yardley (Abbar) in 41.15; 6, Eileen Fraser (Sherwood) in 42.18; 7, Sarah Skelton (Ryans Mill) in 43.21; 8, Claire Rushworth (Ryans Mill) in 44.24; 9, Alan Ball (Foxlight) in 45.27; 10, Arthur Fountain (Ned Kelly) in 46.30.

Leaders: 66; 67; 68; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73; 74; 75; 76; 77; 78; 79; 80; 81; 82; 83; 84; 85; 86; 87; 88; 89; 90; 91; 92; 93; 94; 95; 96; 97; 98; 99; 100.

Leaders: 66; 67; 68; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73; 74; 75; 76; 77; 78; 79; 80; 81; 82; 83; 84; 85; 86; 87; 88; 89; 90; 91; 92; 93; 94; 95; 96; 97; 98; 99; 100.

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Leaders: 66; 67; 68; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73; 74; 75; 76; 77; 78; 79; 80; 81; 82; 83; 84; 85; 86; 87; 88; 89; 90; 91; 92; 93; 94; 95; 96; 97; 98; 99; 100.

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Hailsham backs an elected House of Lords

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

An elected House of Lords and an experiment in criminal trials in which juries would have lawyers as chairmen were proposed by Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone the Lord Chancellor, last night.

The House of Lords was a useful body, he said, and did much to mitigate the shortcomings of the House of Commons. But he would prefer to see an elected second chamber without life peers, bishops or hereditary legislators.

On jury trials, he said the experiment of a lawyer chairman could be tried in criminal cases with the defendant's consent, and in long contested commercial fraud cases, where coupled with a wider right of appeal on facts, the proposed system might achieve less haphazard results.

Lord Hailsham was giving the second of his Hamlyn lectures on the British legal system in London yesterday.

Despite the strengths of the jury system, he said doubts had been expressed and some abuses made plain. There had been widespread misuse of the right of peremptory challenge, particularly where there were multiple defendants, and re-

peated attempts to bribe or intimidate jurors.

In recent cases jurors with long criminal records had been sitting.

There was also "the immense problem of trying long cases of commercial fraud" which involved technical and extremely complex evidence. The fact that juries had to make themselves available for months of continuous sitting precluded a random choice.

To interfere with the jury system would cause widespread consternation, the Lord Chancellor said. But false convictions as well as perverse acquittals did occur "perhaps more often than is supposed" and were almost impossible to upset unless there had been misdirection by the trial judge or the defendant was later able to prove his innocence.

Lord Hailsham added that the legal profession mistrusted juries and their ability to weigh evidence and put emotions and prejudice aside.

"There is something of a contrast between the professed veneration of juries by their worshippers and their actual behaviour when confronted with the objects of their worship."



Food for starving thousands

Food and medical aid are now getting through to northern Ethiopia which is continuing to suffer from the combined effects of drought and a civil war.

One of the main distribution centres is at Gondar, some 300 miles north-west of the capital, Addis Ababa where groups from distant villages walk for up to five days for much-needed supplies of grain.

The villagers in the photographs are allowed to take with them enough to feed their village for one month. They may then return for additional supplies from the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, a government-run organization which handles the distribution of all grain supplies.

In the other photograph, which was taken at the refugee camp of Ibsat nearby, a mother comforts her child. The makeshift camp was set up at the beginning of the year and now houses some 12,000 people who have been displaced from their homes by the shortage of food.

Photographs: John Reardon

Pope's envoy attacks Bruce Kent

Continued from page 1

A spokesman for Cardinal Hume said yesterday: "We do not comment upon the private correspondence of the apostolic pro-nuncio."

Speaking through the CND, Mr Kent, who is in West Berlin, said he had no comment on the letter.

The senior auxiliary bishop of Westminster, the Right Rev Christopher Butler, said that nuclear deterrence was a moral issue, "and all this about what the Russians might think about what happens in this country is totally irrelevant."

The Roman Catholic peace organization Pax Christi called Mr Kent's letter an extraordinary statement, "extremely intemperate and shocking", and

Canon Paul Oestreicher, the Anglican vice-president of the CND, said it was "a sad departure from the pro-nuncio's diplomatic role."

The papal text sent with the letter is an extract from Pope John Paul's address to the United Nations General Assembly last June and has been quoted in recent controversy both for and against Mr Kent's participation in the CND.

The Pope said: "In current conditions, 'deterrence' based on balance, certainly not as an end in itself, but as step on the way towards progressive disarmament, may still be judged morally acceptable. None the less, in order to ensure peace, it is indispensable not to be satisfied with this minimum."

which is always susceptible to the real danger of explosion."

Last month Cardinal Hume issued a statement in the form of a letter, in which he expressed "serious misgivings" about Mr Kent's continuing role in the CND and said the point may arrive when the general secretary of it ought to be a layman.

Father Roger Rushton, former prior of the Dominican Priory in Oxford, said yesterday that the pro-nuncio seemed to be joining the chorus from the Ministry of Defence by saying that unilateralism is either pro-Soviet or useful idiots. "It is highly unusual for the Vatican representative to be intervening in so partisan a way in a national controversy of this kind."

Letters, page 9

Thatcher names defence as priority

Continued from page 1

"Without a shadow of doubt", she said, "this Labour Party has the most extreme and most damaging programme ever placed before the British electorate."

The Prime Minister said that the electorate must beware of the hidden danger of "the so-called protest vote" which would help to put Labour into office.

"Conservative governments have never been laissez-faire, that label belongs to the Liberals", she declared. "Conservatives believe that government must be strong to do those tasks which only governments can perform. Equally, we are wise to leave to industry and to individual endeavour those

things in which only they can succeed.

"I think in their hearts people know that our way is the one that will produce results. No glib talk, no gimmicks, no reckless expenditure, no false promises. Just effort, inventiveness, quality, efficiency and reliability. Then we have got to go out and sell", Mrs Thatcher said.

Although she emphasized the importance of the contrasting policies on defence, the Common Market and the economy, there were two underlying themes which are bound to feature large in the election campaign: law and order and home ownership.

BRUSSELS: Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Foreign Minister, said in an interview

published yesterday that the European summit meeting in Stuttgart next month had been "seriously compromised" by Mrs Thatcher's decision to call the general election on June 9, Ian Murray writes.

He said that the election put an end to all hope that Mrs Thatcher would put "water in her wine" and adopt a moderate approach to negotiations about Britain's EEC budget rebate.

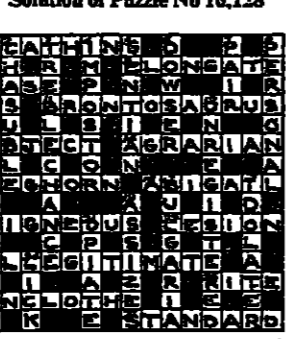
Summit chances, page 6

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Solution of Puzzle No 16,123



Solution of Puzzle No 16,128

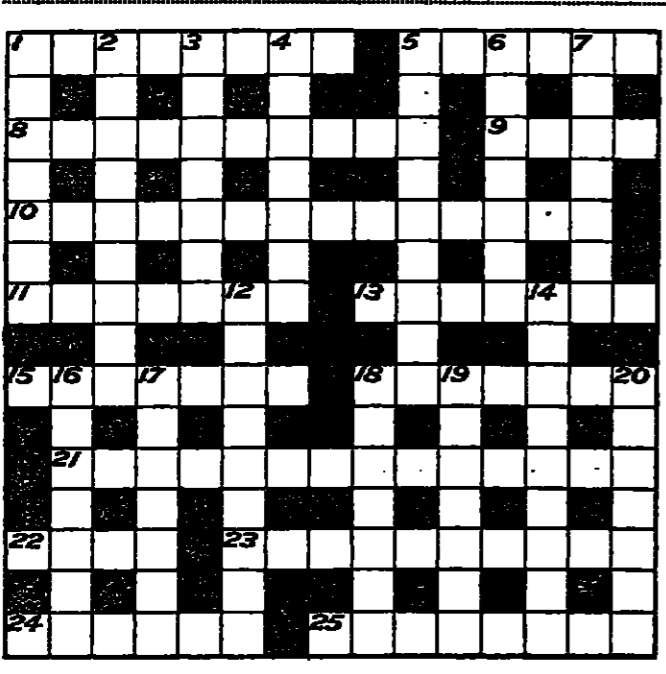


The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,129

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9JT. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name

Address



ACROSS

- 1 One more likely to cough in the casino? (8).
- 5 Mum gets ten thousand dollar return? It's attractive (6).
- 8 Poetic line is confined by a measuring device (10).
- 9 River full of water, by the sound or it ducks on either side (4).
- 10 Not guilty of organizing a horrible caper (14).
- 11 Hence an arranged increase (7).
- 13 Artist's aid and girl-friend? (7).
- 15 Low creature in cloth cap (7).
- 18 Suppresses one's personality - it's reflex (7).
- 21 Pi (6-4-4).
- 22 Cry about a source of light (4).
- 23 Swings and roundabouts here in Kipling's Sussex (4-6).
- 24 In the lead, you are not one to give up... (6).
- 25 ... to give up on account of curse (8).

DOWN

- 1 Fancy covering Paddy? (7).
- 2 Having woe, perish in disarray (9).
- 3 Wielded by dramatist to keep children under control? (4-3).
- 4 Diamonds and gold you say an unwelcome sight? (7).
- 5 Parade in April (5,4).
- 6 Well-run for so long (4-3).
- 7 Going without information that's pressing (7).
- 12 Picked up what's necessary (6-3).
- 14 Tax collector's here to take in about two pounds (4-5).
- 16 Wear out and damage axe thus (7).
- 17 Well-grown child has drawers (7).
- 18 Movement, in other words, gets her weight up (7).
- 19 Resign, worried about circular letter making cuts (7).
- 20 Healthier swine (7).

Today's events

Royal engagements
Prince Andrew visits Biggin Hill to open the International Air Fair, 11.30.

New exhibitions
Sculpture by Ian Scott: Pier Arts Centre, Victoria Street, Stranmillis, Co. Wick, 10.30 to 12.30, 1.30 to 5.30, 2 to 5, from June 1 (until June 11).
Baroque Fantasy, jewelry by Liz Banks, Aberdeen Art Gallery, Schoolhill, Aberdeen: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Thurs 10 to 8, Sun 2 to 5 (until 11 June).
Modern British pottery: Peter Dingley Gallery, 16 Moor Street, Stratford upon Avon: Mon to Sat 9.30 to 1.30 and 2.30 to 5.30, Thurs 9.30 to 1.30 (until August 13).
Reading Guild of Artists' annual exhibition: Reading Museum and Art Gallery, Blagrove Street, Reading: Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 5 (until June 4).
Seventh annual exhibition of work by local artists: Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum, East Cliff, Bournemouth: Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5.30 (until June 18).

Music

Concert by the City of Birmingham with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Town Hall, Birmingham, 7.30.
Newbury Spring Festival: Concert by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, St Nicholas' Parish Church, Newbury, Berkshire, 7.30; recital by the Renaissance Lute Virtuosi, with Christopher Wilson at the Oval Room, Sandford Priory, Newbury, 11.30 am.
Concert by the Cathedral Cantata Choir and Manchester Mozart Orchestra, Manchester Cathedral, 7.30.
Recital by the Colston's Choral Society, Colston's School, Stapleton, Bristol, 7.30.
Concert by Chester Bach Singers and Orchestra, Chester Cathedral, 7.30.
Concert by the Ovestrey Sinfonia with Ralph Holmes (violin), Ovestrey Leisure Centre, Stroud, Stroud, 7.30.
Concert by Salford Choral Society, Free Trade Hall, Manchester, 7.30.
Concert by the Eye Bach Choir and Chamber Orchestra, Eye Parish Church, Eye, Suffolk, 7.30.
Concert by Saffron Walden Choral Society, Parish Church, Saffron Walden, 7.30.
Madrigals by Cantores, St Mary's Church, Felmersham, Bedford, 7.30.

Tomorrow

Royal engagements
Princess Margaret, as President of the Girl Guides Association, will open the Leicestershire County Headquarters in Regent Road, Leicester, at 3, 5 pm (until June 12).
The Duke of Gloucester will leave Gatwick Airport at 11 for a six day visit to Korea, returning May 21.

New exhibitions
Selling Ancient Seas: sculptures and prints by Keir Smith; Rozelle House, Rozelle Park, Ayr: Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until June 12).
Paintings by Kenny Campbell: MacLaurin Art Gallery, Rozelle Park, Ayr: Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until June 3).

Missis

Concert by St Peter's Singers and Chamber Orchestra, Leeds Parish Church, 8.15.
Music for a summer's evening, Boreston Parish Church, Cambridge-shire, 7.30.

National Day

Paraguay today celebrates the anniversary of its independence from Spain in 1811. A landlocked country surrounded by Brazil, Bolivia and Argentina, it is the size of California and has a population of just over three million.
For the first 60 years of its independence it was governed by three dictators and during devastating war against Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay between 1865 to 1870, its population was reduced from about 600,000 to 232,000. From 1912 there was a twenty year period of comparative economic and political stability but this was followed by a three-year war with Bolivia.
After a series of revolutions, General Alfredo Stroessner was brought to power by a military coup in 1954 and confirmed in office by an election. He ruled under state of siege until 1965. In 1967 the constitution was revised to permit the President to be re-elected and he is still in office.
The population is of mixed Spanish and Guaraní Indian stock, with half speaking solely Guaraní and 4 per cent solely Spanish. The remainder are bilingual.

Roads

Wales and West: A52: Temporary traffic lights at Penman Head, Old Colwyn, Clwyd; delays. A48: Temporary one-way system in High Street, Lydney, Gloucestershire.
M5: Numerous restrictions from junction 26 (Tamworth) to 27 (Tiverton).
M1: Lane closures on both carriageways of Telford by-pass at junction 5. A46: Roadworks: delays at Bridgford Gyratory, Stratford on Avon, Warwickshire.
North: A6: Temporary traffic lights at Preston Road, Whittle le Woods, Lancashire; delays at near times.
A1: Restructuring works of south-bound carriageway both sides of Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire.
M6: Southbound carriageway closed between junction 41 (north of Carlisle), Cumbria; all traffic sharing northbound carriageway.
A62: Great Western Road, Glasgow: closed to eastbound traffic for sewer repairs. A90: Carriageway closed on Forth Road Bridge: Traffic sharing same carriageway. M8: Eastbound carriageway closed tomorrow between Claring Cross and Towbhead (junction 15), Glasgow.
Information supplied by the A.A.

The pound

	Bank	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells	
Australia \$	1.85	1.76	
Austria Sch	28.49	26.60	
Belgium Fr	70.75	75.75	
Canada \$	1.98	1.90	
Denmark Kr	16.22	16.39	
Finland Mk	8.52	8.42	
France Fr	11.96	11.36	
Germany DM	3.98	3.78	
Greece Dr	133.59	125.50	
Hongkong \$	11.34	10.56	
Ireland Pt	1.26	1.19	
Italy Lira	2395.00	2245.00	
Japan Yen	362.90	363.00	
Netherlands Gld	11.60	11.00	
Norway Kr	169.00	168.00	
Portugal Esc	1.97	1.83	
South Africa Rd	214.50	204.50	
Spain Pta	162.17	152.50	
Sweden Kr	1.23	1.15	
Switzerland Fr	3.52	3.14	
USA \$	1.63	1.55	
Yugoslavia Dnr	130.00	123.00	

Notes for small denominations bank notes only.
London: The FT Index closed up 3.1 at 671.7.

In the garden

After a wet spring we are more likely to have a "disease summer" than a "pest summer". One must make an exception for slugs and snails, which revel in wet conditions and one should wage active war against them now.
Apple scab and mildew on roses and other plants may be expected to be bad this year. A spraying with a fungicide on apple trees is now and once a fortnight for the next two or three months would be a wise precaution. Watch roses, especially climbers, for mildew and spray with a fungicide at the first sign.
Thin and weed seedlings of vegetables and hardy annuals as soon as they are large enough to handle. If the ground is dry (it must stop raining some time) water the seedlings to settle them back into the soil.
Give all house plants and pot plants in the greenhouse a feed with a soluble fertilizer and repeat it every two weeks or so.

Gardens open

TODAY
Wiltshire: Thorpe Ferrer, Beddington rose and unusual trees, 9.30 to 5.
TODAY AND TOMORROW
Devon: Skerton Farm, Dean Prior, 3m SW of Buckfastleigh; off A38, half way between Buckfastleigh and Newton Abbot, 9.30 am to 4.30 pm.
Sussex: East Hill, near St George's Church, 9.30 am to 5.07 pm.
TOMORROW
Lancashire: Lancaster, Bodmin on old A30, 2m E of Bodmin; 4 acres, flowering shrubs; 2 to 6.
Gloucestershire: Yew Tree Cottages, Ampney St Mary, off A17 at E end of Ampney St; Peter shiraz and other interesting plants; plans for sale; 2 to 6.
Hampshire: Little Langley, Steep, near Petersfield; 5 acres, spring bulbs, flowering trees and shrubs, rock, wild and kitchen gardens; plans for sale; 2 to 6.
Isle of Wight: Park Meade, Cowell Lane, Freshwater; trees, shrubs, ponds; plans for sale; 2.30 to 5.30; also open every Tuesday in May and June.
North Yorkshire: Kewick Hall, Kewick, near Thirsk; large garden, trees and shrubs, greenhouses, kitchen garden; 2 to 6.
Shropshire: The Magnolias, Merrington, Bomere Heath, near Shrewsbury; one and a half acres, shrubs; greenhouses; kitchen garden; 2 to 6.
Somerset: Court House, East Quantoxhead, 12m W of Bridgwater, off A39; 3 acres, shrubs, herbaceous; 2 to 6.
The Gables, Stoke-sub-Hamdon, 6m W of Hamdon, off A302 W of Ilchester; one and a half acres; large garden; plans for sale, if available; 2 to 7.

Anniversaries

TODAY: Births: Thomas Galbraith baptised, Sudbury, Suffolk, 1727; Robert Owen, Newtown, Powys, 1771. Deaths: Mary Seacole, West Indian nurse in the Crimean War, Paddington, London, 1881; Augustus Strindberg, Stockholm, 1912. The State of Israel was established, 1948. Independence Day (and May 15) in Paraguay.
TOMORROW: Births: Pierre Curie, Paris, 1859; Edwin Muir, poet and critic, Dornoch, Orkney, 1887. Deaths: Emily Dickinson, poet, Amherst, Massachusetts, 1862; W. J. Locke, novelist (The Beloved Vagabond), Cannes, 1930.

Weather

A depression over NW Scotland will move slowly N.

Gam to midnight

London, East Angles, Midlands, E. NE, Central, N England, Border, Edinburgh and Dundee: Sunny periods at first, scattered showers developing, heavy and thundery in places, becoming isolated during evening; wind S, moderate; max temp 18C (61F).
North West, SW, W, NW Scotland, S. NW England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: Heavy rain, showers, soon spreading inland, heavy and thundery in places, prolonged at times, wind SW, moderate or fresh, max temp 12 to 14C (54 to 57F).
Aberdeen, SW, NE, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Henry Head, Arran, Mull, Skye: Sunny periods, showers, heavy and thundery in places, prolonged at times; wind variable, light; max temp 12 to 14C (54 to 57F).
Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals, isolated showers, some coastal fog at first; wind S, moderate; max temp 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Sunny intervals and showers, thundery and prolonged at times, becoming cooler.
SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea: Wind S, fresh; sea moderate. Strait of Dover: Wind S, fresh or strong; sea moderate. Channel: Wind S, fresh or strong. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S, moderate or fresh; sea moderate.

Lighting-up time

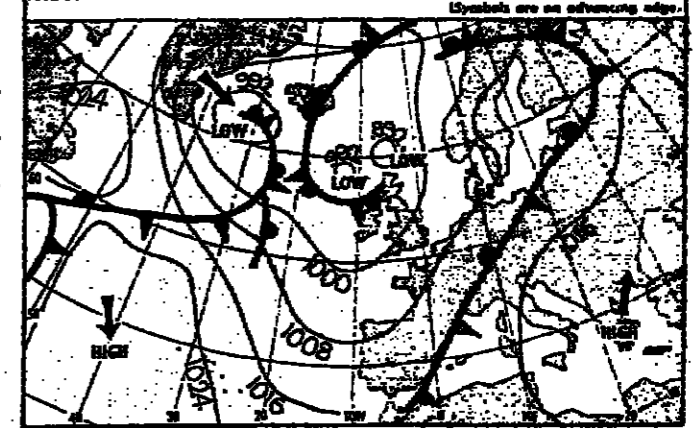
TODAY
London 8.14 pm to 4.40 am
Bristol 8.23 pm to 4.50 am
Birmingham 8.48 pm to 4.31 am
Manchester 8.30 pm to 4.40 am
Preston 8.30 pm to 5.07 am

TOMORROW
London 8.15 pm to 4.39 am
Bristol 8.24 pm to 4.49 am
Birmingham 8.49 pm to 4.32 am
Manchester 8.31 pm to 4.58 am
Preston 8.31 pm to 5.07 am

Around Britain

	Sun	Rain	Max	C	F	Shower
St Andrews	8.4	11	15	5	41	Shower
Scarborough	8.8	10	15	5	41	Shower
Blackburn	8.8	10	15	5	41	Shower
Cardiff	8.8	10	15	5	41	Shower
Exeter	8.8	10	15	5	41	Shower
Gloucester	8.8	10	15	5	41	Shower
Leeds	8.8	10	15	5	41	Shower
London	8.8	10	15	5	41	Shower
Manchester	8.8	10	15	5	41	Shower
Newcastle	8.8	10	15	5	41	Shower
Nottingham	8.8	10	15	5	41	Shower
Sheffield	8.8	10	15	5	41	Shower
Southampton	8.8	10	15	5	41	Shower
Stroud	8.8	10	15	5	41	Shower
Torquay	8.8	10	15	5	41	Shower
Wolverhampton	8.8	10	15	5	41	Shower
Worcester	8.8	10	15	5	41	Shower
Wrexham	8.8	10	15	5	41	Shower
York	8.8	10	15	5	41	Shower

MOON TODAY



MOON TODAY

Location	Phase	Time
Belfast	Waxing	11.52
Birmingham	Waxing	11.52
Blackburn	Waxing	11.52
Bristol	Waxing	11.52
Cardiff	Waxing	11.52
Exeter	Waxing	11.52
Gloucester	Waxing	11.52
Leeds	Waxing	11.52
London	Waxing	11.52
Manchester	Waxing	11.52
Newcastle	Waxing	11.52
Nottingham	Waxing	11.52
Sheffield	Waxing	11.52
Southampton	Waxing	11.52
Stroud	Waxing	11.52
Torquay	Waxing	11.52
Wolverhampton	Waxing	11.52
Worcester	Waxing	11.52
Wrexham	Waxing	11.52
York	Waxing	11.52

Yesterday

Temperature at midday yesterday, c, cloud, f.

Location	C	F
Belfast	10.50	50.90
Birmingham	11.52	52.74
Blackburn	11.52	52.74
Bristol	11.52	52.74
Cardiff	11.52	52.74
Exeter	11.52	52.74
Gloucester	11.52	52.74
Leeds	11.52	52.74
London	11.52	52.74
Manchester	11.52	52.74
Newcastle	11.52	52.74
Nottingham	11.52	52.74
Sheffield	11.52	52.74
Southampton	11.52	52.74
Stroud	11.52	52.74
Torquay	11.52	52.74
Wolverhampton	11.52	52.74
Worcester	11.52	52.74
Wrexham	11.52	52.74
York	11.52	52.74

Highest and lowest

Highest day temp: Heathrow, 16C (61F); lowest day temp: Cape Wrath, 6C (43F); highest night temp: Brixton, 12C (54F); lowest night temp: Bournemouth 11.5C.

London